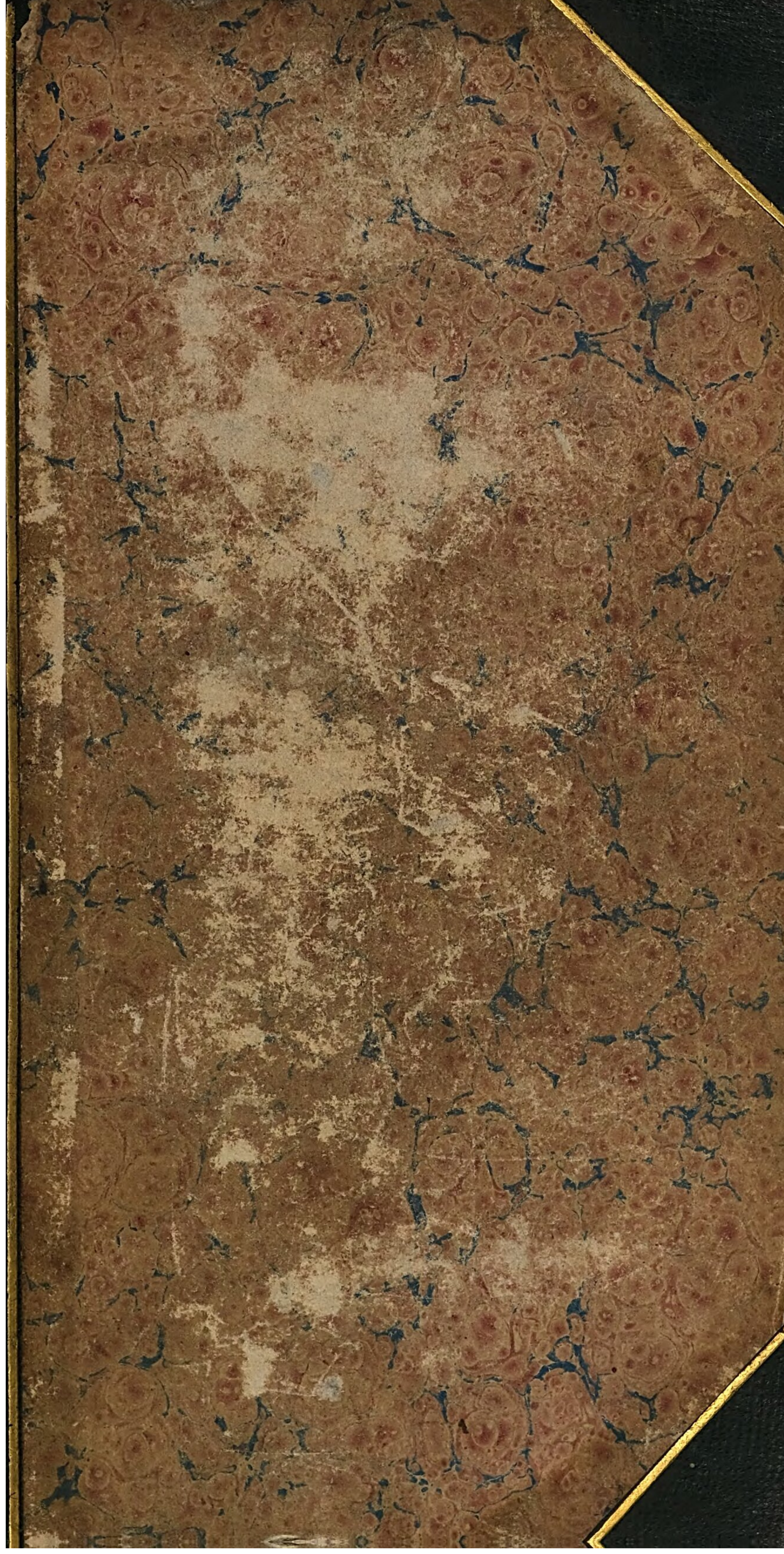
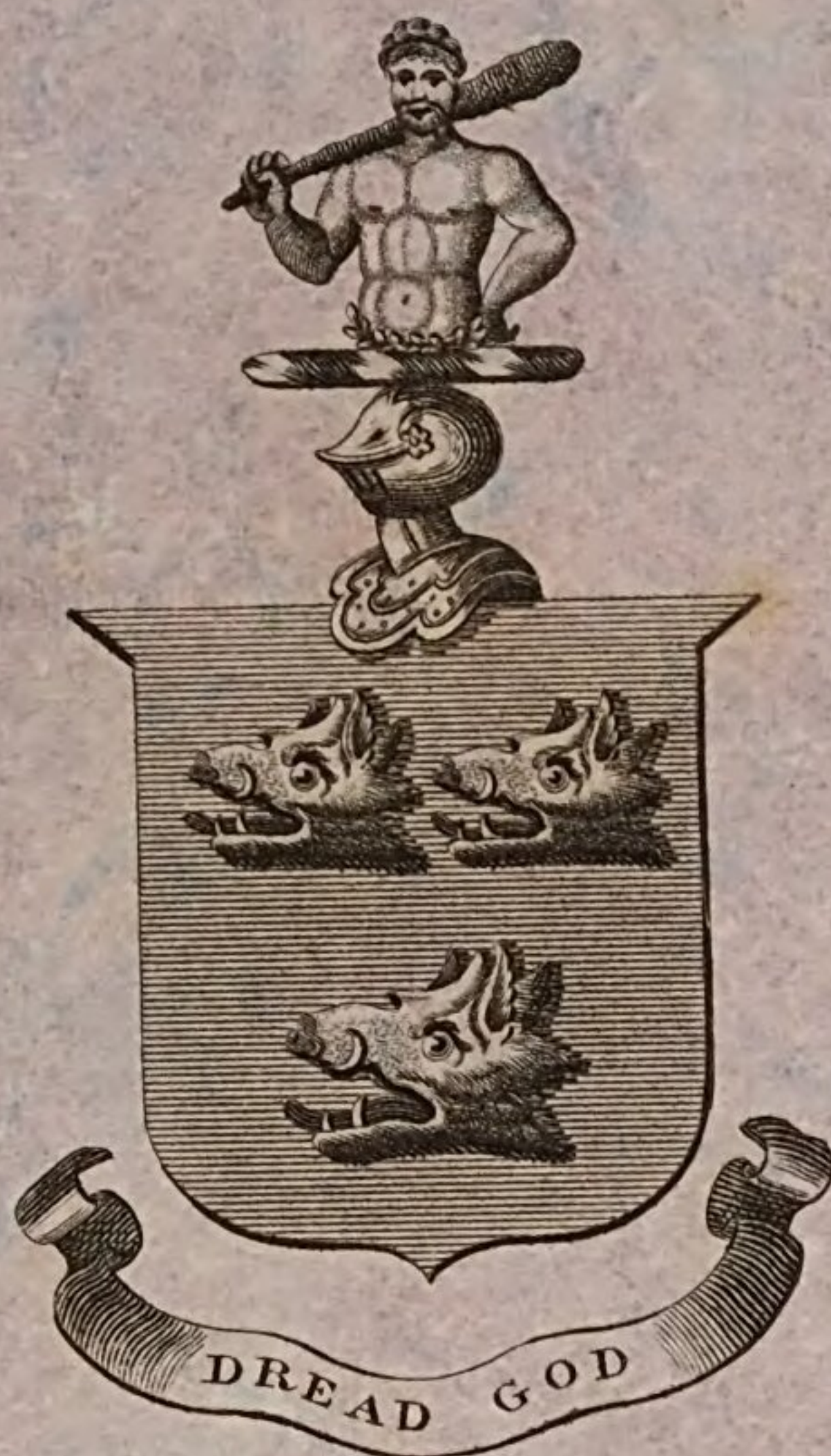
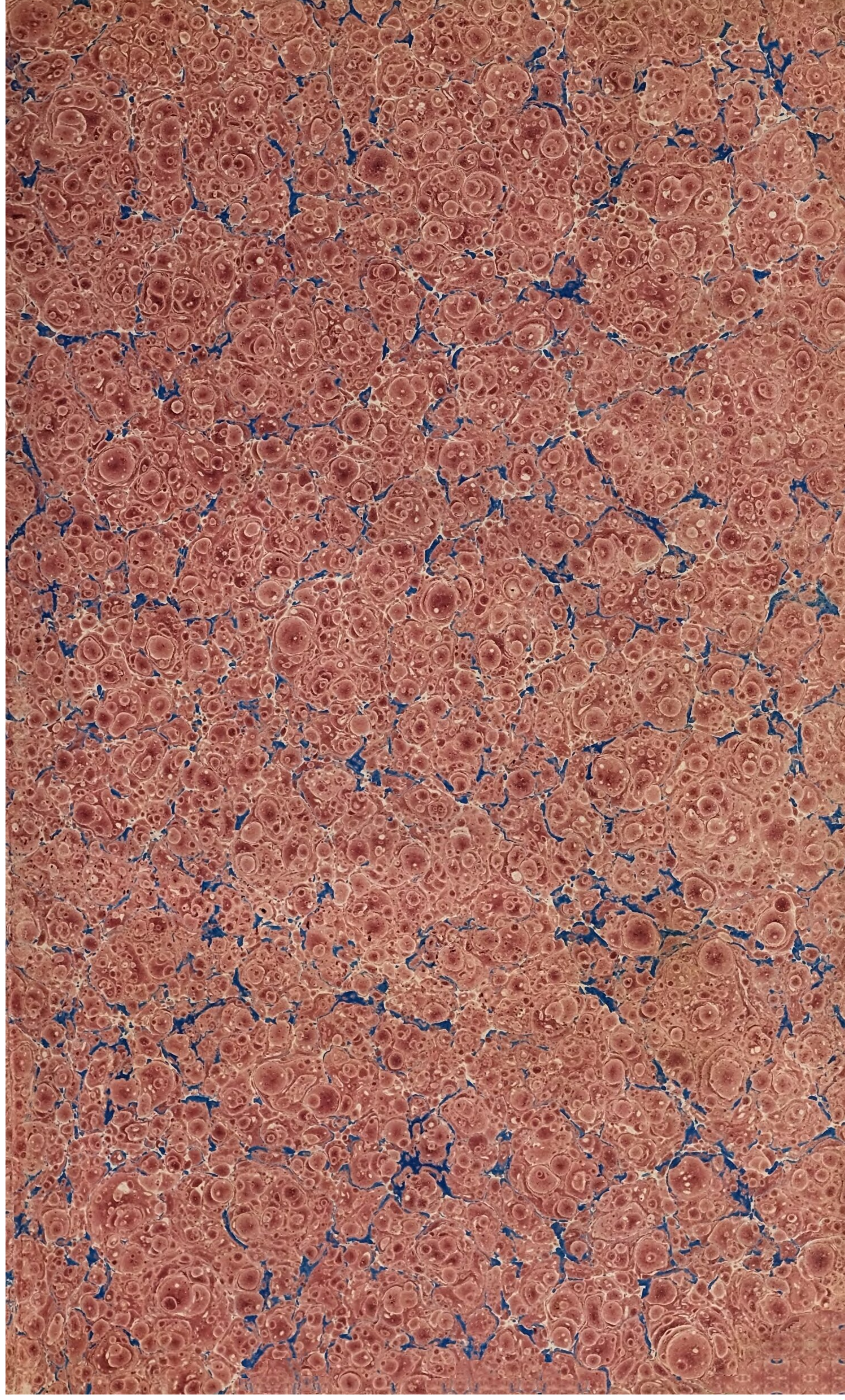






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Royal Navy.

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NEWGATE CALENDAR.



Chapman. sc.

THE BOWSTRING, A TURKISH PUNISHMENT.

VOL. 4.

London
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THE NEW **Newgate Calendar :**

BEING
INTERESTING MEMOIRS
OF
NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS,

Who have been convicted of Outrages on

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND

DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY; BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME.

Chronologically Arranged.

COMPRISING

TRAITORS,
MURDERERS,
INCENDIARIES,
RAVISHERS,
PIRATES,
MUTINEERS,
COINERS,

HIGHWAYMEN,
FOOTPADS,
HOUSEBREAKERS,
RIOTERS,
EXTORTIONERS,
SHARPERS,
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PICKPOCKETS,
FRAUDULENT BANK-
RUPTS,
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AND

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IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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RAVISHERS,	ROBBERIES,	WITCHES,
STREETS,	EXTORTIONERS,	WITNESSES,
MURDERERS,	WITNESSES,	WITNESSES,
COINERS,	WITNESSES,	WITNESSES,



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THE NEW **NEWGATE CALENDAR,**

&c. &c.

WILLIAM LEE,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, APRIL 20, 1796, FOR BURGLARY.

WHEN men are detected in their career of villainy, and brought to the bar of justice, what strange falsehoods will they not attempt to bolster up, in order to impose upon a court and jury !

This man's defence was surely the strangest improbability that ever culprit told in his own extenuation.

He broke into the shop of John Dingwell and Gerald Baillieu, then eminent jewellers in St. James's Street, and stole thence a quantity of diamonds, and other valuable articles. With this booty he set off for Dublin, and there offered a large diamond pin for sale, to Mr. Ambrose Moore, a jeweller. Mr. Moore, suspecting that Lee did not come honestly into possession of so valuable an article, interrogated him accordingly; and the thief replied that his wife lived servant to the princesses Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia, by whom the pin had been given her.

This story of royal generosity did not, however, satisfy the Irish jeweller, who caused our hero to be apprehended as a suspicious person, and he was committed to Dublin Bridewell, where he offered the keeper, Richard Warren, seven hundred pounds' worth of diamonds to favour his escape, swearing that he would never discover the manner of his enlargement.

The keeper affected to agree to these terms, whereupon Lee delivered him a number of diamonds, but the faithless gaoler detained both them and his prisoner.

Information of this transaction reaching London, Messrs. Dingwell and Baillieu applied to the Secretary of State, who directed Warren to bring his prisoner and the jewels to London.

On their arrival at the Old Bailey, Moore proved the circumstances respecting the offer of the pin, and Warren produced his splendid bribe, to which Mr. Baillieu swore, as the property of his partner and himself.

Hannah Hannats deposed that the prisoner set off for Dublin with one Sarah Chandler, who was disguised in man's apparel.

The diamond-stealer was convicted, and executed along with William Ashby, the subject of the last report, and Thomas Davenport, a soldier, for committing a rape.

Lee was an Irishman, and a Roman Catholic; and was attended to the place of execution by a priest of that persuasion.

It does not appear whether or not this offender had committed any previous breaches of the law; but, as it rarely happens that a criminal starts at once into so desperate an extremity of guilt, we are almost warranted in inferring that he had. Upon the whole, this man seems to have been as simple as he was knavish; for, what could exceed the palpable absurdity of his defence, or the short-sightedness of his offer to the keeper?

ROBERT

ROBERT LADBROKE TROYT,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, NOV. 28, 1798, FOR FORGERY.

“ Death stands between eternity and time
 “ With open jaws—on such a narrow bridge,
 “ That none can pass, but must become his prey.

THE subject of the present narrative could not, by any means, be said to have obtained a rank among men, being at the time of his suffering barely seventeen, and withal tender for his years ; but he was certainly old enough to know that the crime he committed would in all probability bring him to a speedy and ignominious death.

He was found guilty of having feloniously forged, and published as true, knowing it to be forged, a certain draft, dated the 20th of August, for the sum of 75*l.* payable to Sir William Blackstone, purporting to be the draft of Messrs. Devaynes, Dawes, Noble, and Co.

On his trial this miserable boy was gaily dressed, and behaved with much unconcern, appearing to have no sense of the awful situation in which he stood ; but at the place of execution he presented a lamentable spectacle. He screamed in horror at the first sight of the apparatus of death, and, during the short time allowed upon the scaffold for devotion, was in the greatest agony of mind.

Troyt suffered for his first offence—but it was of a nature very rarely pardoned ; nor could interest or the urgent plea of youth prevail in his behalf.

This ill-fated victim of a severity which we feel much inclined to term misplaced had been a short time clerk to a gentleman of legal eminence in London ; and having courted the company of his elders, and tasted the seductive but cloying sweets of dissipation, to support such an evil course he perpetrated the fatal deed which so soon put a stop to his career.

He suffered along with Dennis Nugent, for a rape ; and Ann Warner, otherwise Sarah Willis, for colouring and passing base metal, in imitation of shillings.

HENRY

HENRY WESTON,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JULY, 6, 1796.

THE pernicious vice of gaming never raged in the human breast with a more ruinous and speedy course than in that of this unfortunate and much-lamented young man, the particulars of whose case we have fully extracted from the various accounts published about the time of his conviction.

The melancholy narrative cannot fail, we should think, of conveying to the minds of all who are intrusted with the property of others a warning against their being tempted to betray the confidence reposed in them.

Mr. Weston belonged to a very respectable family in Ireland, and was recommended to Mr. Cowan, of Ely-place, to manage his army-agency concerns. Henry's attention to business was such as soon gained him the confidence of his employer. Mr. Cowan, about the year 1794, having occasion to be absent in the country, gave Weston an unlimited order to draw upon his banker for any sums he might want; and to this implicit confidence upon his part may be dated the origin of the young man's ruin: for, having no person to overlook or to be a check upon him, he was tempted to hazard a large sum of money at a gaming-house in Pall Mall, which he lost; and, having gamed away nearly the whole property of his employer, he was at length induced, in the hope of recovering it, to forge the name of General Tonyn to a warrant of attorney, whereby he received upwards of 10,000*l.* at the Bank, which sum did not uphold his extravagance more than two nights.

This matter lay undiscovered for some time, as he remitted the general's dividends regularly upon their becoming due; he likewise obtained from his cousin, Mr. Walter, (afterwards Sir Hugh Walter,) a large part of the fortune left him by his uncles, under the pretence of laying it out to advantage in the stocks, all of which was sunk at the gaming-table. This brought him to such a state of desperation, that, to obtain more money at any risk, he had the audacity to take a woman to the bank to personate the sister of General Tonyn, and in consequence
obtained

obtained another considerable sum. He had been met by that lady about two months before at the Panorama, where she accused him of neglecting her payments; upon which Weston immediately set off for Ipswich, and arrived at the post-office next morning in time to intercept her letter to her brother, which he answered as from the general, to the lady's satisfaction.

Finding at length that he could hold it out no longer, he started one afternoon for Liverpool, attended by the servant of Mr. Cowan, who accompanied him as far as Finchley Common: when they parted, the servant returned home, where the mischief being by this time discovered, he was immediately taken into custody, under the supposition that he was Weston's confidant, as his name was signed as witness to the warrant of attorney.

Weston was taken in Liverpool on board of a vessel on the point of sailing for America, to which place he had intended to emigrate: when he was about to be taken, he made several attempts to destroy himself by cutting his throat.

His trial came on May 14, 1796, at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey, before Mr. Common Sergeant.

James Bolton, John Staples, and John Sleeth, each of them clerks in the Bank, were sworn, and deposed that General Patrick Tonyn was possessed of 16,000*l.* three per cent. consol. bank annuities, standing in his name.

William Kinsale proved that the prisoner, on the 22d of January previous, transferred 5000*l.* of this stock by power of attorney; 2000*l.* to Mr. Bennet, 2000*l.* to Mr. Sleeth, and 1000*l.* to Mr. Boldew.

General Patrick Tonyn deposed that on the 16th of January he had 16,000*l.* stock in the three per cents.—The Bank had made up every deficiency that was in that stock. In the month of April previous he gave directions to Mr. Aldridge to examine into his stock, for the purpose of transferring it; in consequence of which he saw the prisoner on the Friday following, at Mr. Aldridge's: he had intended to go immediately from thence to make the transfer, but the prisoner said it was likely they should be detained several hours at the Bank, as it was the first transfer day; he therefore did not go till the
Monday

Monday following, when the prisoner promised to meet him and Mr. Aldridge in the city, which, however, he did not do. Upon arriving at the Bank he found there was no stock in his name. He did not see the prisoner after that till he was in custody.

Walter Tone said, he is servant to Mr. Cowan, of Ely-place; that the prisoner came to his master's house, and asked him to go with him to a coffee-house, which he did: when they were there he took a blank instrument out of his pocket, and asked him to sign his name to it, which he also did, having no suspicion; and he added to it, servant to Mr. Cowan.

John Aldridge said, on the 7th of April previous he received orders from General Tonyn to go to the Bank, in consequence of which he went: there he saw the prisoner; he told him the general would be there the following day, to transfer 16,000*l.* standing in his name, under certain trusts, to the executors under his brother's will; the prisoner said he wished to have the business postponed to a future day. He then told the prisoner he had been informed by Mr. Vickery, of the Bank, that all the general's stock was sold out; he answered it was true that the stock had been lent to Mr. Cowan, to be invested in navy bills, and that they were then rather low, but were expected to be higher; and he told him he would speak to the general on the subject. The prisoner desired the witness not to say any thing to the general about the stock being sold out, because he said it was the wish of that gentleman, as well as of Mr. Cowan, that it should be a secret.

Other witnesses were examined,—particularly Mr. Cowan himself, who was much affected while he gave his testimony, and retired, after his evidence, dissolved in tears.

The prisoner, after a most affecting trial, was found guilty. The jury having delivered their verdict, the prisoner addressed the Court in these words:—

“ My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury, the verdict which has now been passed upon me I hear with calmness and resignation, which I am happy in possessing upon so awful an occasion. I am, my Lord, as my appearance may easily show, a very young man. I hope the numerous

merous young men who surround me will take example by my fate, and avoid those excesses, and fatal vice of gambling, which have brought me to ruin and disgrace ; and I hope, too, that those farther advanced in years will be cautious not to confide with too unlimited a control the management of their concerns to the care of inexperienced young men.

“ At the time I was ushered into life, I possessed that control over property, the value of which I could not justly estimate, from which I date my present dreadful situation. I have been ruined by too much precipitation in myself, and by too great want of attention in those that have had the superintendence of my conduct. The justice of my condemnation I acknowledge, and shall submit to it with patience, and I hope with fortitude.”

When sentence of death was passed, he addressed the Court as follows :—

“ My Lord, I beg to return my humble thanks to this honourable Court, for the great attention and kindness which I experienced on the awful day of my trial ; and would beg now to trouble your Lordship with a few observations.

“ My Lord, I acknowledge the crime for which I have been convicted ; but I solemnly declare that I did not do the act with any intention ultimately to defraud General Tonyn. If I had had any such intention, it is plain that I had an opportunity to have escaped from justice, and to have gone to the remotest part of the globe : but, although I was too much attached to the vice of gambling, yet I fully intended to make restitution, to the utmost of my power, of that property which I became possessed of through this forgery.

“ My Lord, I solemnly declare I have never committed any bad act, except the unfortunate crime for which I am now justly sentenced to die. I put my trust in God, hoping that he will enable me to bear my sufferings with resignation, and that He who knows the hearts of every one will judge me according to my intentions ; and I most humbly request that the execution of my sentence may be delayed, so as to allow me time to prepare for that awful and important event which awaits me.”

Weston entertained an abhorrence at being seen by the mob upon the scaffold, and he expressed an earnest desire that the platform should drop the moment he was tied to the gallows.

Another malefactor, named John Roberts, was sentenced to die at the same time, and Weston found it necessary to have his consent. One of the clergymen who attended Weston undertook to negotiate the melancholy business.

Upon Roberts being informed of the wish of his fellow-sufferer, he replied, "What! is Weston afraid of being seen? That is not my case. I am not only willing that the people should see me, but likewise take warning by my untimely end; and therefore I desire to have the usual prayers under the gallows." The ordinary replied, that he had a right to that indulgence, and it should be granted.

On the morning of execution, Weston was conducted to chapel, in order that he might receive the sacrament with his fellow-sufferer, who particularly expressed how happy he should be if Mr. Weston would grant him that favour; "if not (said he), I hope nevertheless we may meet in heaven." For it must be observed, that Weston did not usually come to chapel, not being there above three or four times during his confinement, having been waited upon by some clergyman or other in his own room. However, on the morning (July 6) he attended and communicated with the reverend gentlemen and his fellow-convict; the sacrament was administered by the ordinary, who afterwards prayed with the unhappy prisoners on the scaffold, attended by one of the divines alone, as the other two could not make up their minds to go on the platform, though requested by the unhappy young Weston.

Upon the executioner's putting on the cap, he pulled it as far as he possibly could himself over his face, and at the same time held a white handkerchief to his mouth, so that, during prayers, the populace could by no means see his countenance. He wept abundantly just before he was turned off, and squeezed his friend (the minister's) hand, being no doubt at that time much agitated.

It

It is said that his mother died in Ireland, a few days before his execution, of a broken heart.

It is not possible to conceive a more affecting or interesting example offered to the consideration of men who speculate and waste their own friends' property, with which they may be intrusted, than that of Henry Weston, who closed his sad account with the ignominious sacrifice of his life.

His plea of not having any bad intention is a deceiving argument, and in the scale of religion or morality can have little weight. From small gains, at first, men are inveigled to pursue the visionary phantom; they forfeit the trust confided to them by their friends, under the expectation of soon being able to replace it; but succeeding attempts strip them of all hopes, inextricable difficulties entangle them, and, if the last effort brings them not to the gallows, despair often drives them to self-murder. When on the gallows, Weston refused to shake hands with his fellow-sufferer.

VALLERIE COFFRE,

A FRENCHMAN, EXECUTED AT WINCHESTER, JULY 11, 1796, FOR THE
MURDER OF HIS FELLOW-PRISONER.

It is a melancholy reflection on the state of human nature to find men under the misery of imprisonment, in a foreign land, quarrelling with each other, to a height ending in murder.

That men, side by side, fighting the battles of their country, and by the fortune of war made prisoners by their enemy, should, in their confinement, begin to murder each other, is a dreadful reflection.

Vallerie Coffre was a French prisoner of war, confined, with a number of his countrymen, at Portchester Castle, in Hampshire. He quarrelled with his countryman and fellow-prisoner, Nicholas Chartier, and by a secret stab with his knife, (an instrument all Frenchmen carry about

them, chiefly for the purpose of cutting their food,*) deprived him of life.

This was fully proved on his trial. He pleaded intoxication, and behaved with great contrition. He was a well-made young man, and only twenty-two years of age. He was attended by a Catholic priest, and was very earnest in his devotions. The whole of the French prisoners were guarded to the place of execution, to witness the dreadful example.

He signed a confession, according to the custom of his country, acknowledging his crime, and the justice of his sentence, and asking pardon for it. The priest who attended him, just before he was turned off, read the paper to the prisoners assembled, which it is hoped had a good effect on them.

The following is a correct copy of the paper above mentioned :

“ In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.—Fatal drunkenness ! without which I should not have killed my friend, since I loved him, and regret him sincerely, and with all my soul. Truth obliges me to say, to the end, that I have no knowledge of that which I did then, so much were my senses lost ; nevertheless I have committed a great crime—I acknowledge the justice of my condemnation—I entreat pardon for it from my friends, from all those who were witnesses to it, and, above all, from God, who is the Father and the Saviour of all men, and to whom I recommend my soul, trusting myself to the merits of Jesus Christ, and blessing his divine bounty. I die a member of the Apostolic Roman Church.

“ Vallerie Coffre.

“ Witness, Delabaye.”

“ July 11, 1796.”

* At French tables knives are seldom laid with each plate. A carver is sometimes found near the dish of roast meat, but there is little occasion for this, their victuals being always cooked, as we would express it, to rags. Thus they easily pull it to pieces with their three-pronged forks. With one of these and a knife (the latter each individual takes from the pocket), aided occasionally by their fingers, they consume an enormous quantity of salad, greens, and bread ; with no small allowance of overdone animal food. Of this part of their aliment, stews, ragouts, and soups, are excellent ; but no Englishman can relish their roast beef, their steak, or their leg of mutton.

After

After execution his body was immediately delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

JOHN CLARKE,

EXECUTED NEAR BROMLEY, IN KENT, JULY 29, 1796, FOR MURDER.

THIS is another horrid case of a man seducing, and then murdering, a female, with the aggravation to this crime of having been at the time a married man.

The Romans esteemed chastity in women their dearest virtue, and punished with dreadful severity the man who seduced a virgin. Of the veneration of these, once a noble race for chastity, the poet says,

“ Bright goddess !

“ Thou to whose honour ancient Rome decreed

“ Temples and altars, when thy Lucretia

“ For glory bled ! do thou protect thy votary

“ From violence and shame !

John Clarke was gardener to Charles Long, Esq. near Bromley, in Kent, and at the summer assizes for 1796, at Maidstone, was indicted for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mann, his fellow-servant, who lived as dairy-maid with that gentleman, at his country seat near Bromley, in Kent.

The deceased, it appeared by the testimony of Mr. Long's servants, was observed, a few days before she was murdered, to appear very much dejected, in consequence of the prisoner's not paying that attention to her he was accustomed to do, and by whom they strongly suspected she was with child.

The day on which she disappeared was on a Monday ; and on the Tuesday she was found by the steward and coachman in the dairy, with a deep wound in her throat, and a cord fastened tight round her neck. From the intimacy which subsisted between the prisoner and her, their suspicions fell on him ; in consequence of which two of-
ficers

ficers from Bow-street were sent for, who, on their arrival at Mr. Long's house, went to the dairy, where, after a strict search, nothing was found that could possibly create a suspicion that the unfortunate young woman had been guilty of suicide.

They immediately took Clarke into custody : he denied knowing any thing of the matter ; and, in stating how he had been employed on the Monday evening on which the murder was perpetrated, he contradicted himself in his several relations.

But the most material part of the evidence adduced against him was that of one John Johnson, a painter, who lodged in the prisoner's house. He swore that, on the Monday evening on which the deceased was murdered, he went home about a quarter before nine, and asked Mrs. Clarke (the prisoner's wife) for his supper : after eating it, he went to the Greyhound public house, where he remained till about a quarter past ten, when he returned back to his lodging : Clarke was then at home, and was sitting very much dejected, leaning on the table with his arms folded.

From the behaviour of Mrs. Clarke, the witness thought they wanted him gone ; and on Mrs. Clarke giving him a candle, he went up to bed : he was sitting on the bed-side, reading, when he heard Mrs. C. come softly up stairs, and say in a low voice to her husband, " Not yet, he is not in bed." Soon after he went to bed, and got up about six o'clock in the morning. Seeing Mrs. Clarke up, he said she was up early ; she replied she was washing. He heard of the murder soon after this, and communicated his suspicions to his comrade (Stedman) as to the guilt of Clarke ; on which they both went to him, and told him the rumour that was spread respecting the murder of Mr. Long's dairy-maid. He trembled exceedingly, and appeared very much agitated. He asked them if any person was suspected ; and added, that he wished some heavy misfortune would fall on him if he had been guilty of the deed. Some other conversation passed between them, all of which tended greatly to confirm their suspicions.

A piece of rope was then produced, found in the tool-house of the prisoner, which proved to be of the very same manufacture,

manufacture, texture, and size, as that found about the neck of the deceased.

The jury, after a short deliberation, found him guilty. He was ordered for execution, and his body afterwards to be dissected.

Clarke was executed pursuant to his sentence. He made a circumstantial confession of seducing the deceased to the clergyman who attended him after conviction, but which appears very extraordinary, and in some cases improbable, as he attempted to exculpate himself of any premeditated intention of committing murder; said it was entirely brought about by the deceased herself, who, when he went by her own appointment to the dairy-house, locked the door, took away the key, and put her apron over the key-hole, and he attempted to leave her by getting out of the window; she held him back, and desired he would kill her, declaring she had rather die than live and be slighted; that the rope with which he did it he found in the dairy-house; but which not dispatching her quick enough, he cut her throat with a knife he had about him, which he afterwards threw into a pond, where he went to wash the blood from his hands. The circumstance of his clothes being washed or burnt, to prevent discovery, he also positively denied, and declared his wife had no knowledge of the business.

SARAH PENELOPE STANLEY,

(The Female Trooper,)

CONVICTED AT THE OLD BAILEY, IN OCTOBER SESSIONS, 1796, OF PETTY LARCENY.

THIS female warrior was born at Mercival-hall, in Warwickshire, the seat of Mr. Stratford, to whom her father was steward, whose name was Brindley. She was put apprentice to a milliner at Lichfield, and married to a shoemaker. Her husband being an idle dissolute fellow, they were reduced to very indigent circumstances. She left him to come to London. Having had a good education, and

and writing an excellent hand, she put on men's apparel, and for some time wrote for gentlemen in the Commons; but, meeting with a recruiting serjeant at Westminster, she engaged to serve in a regiment of light horse, then raising, called the Ayrshire Fencible Cavalry. She served upwards of a year with great credit to herself, and was promoted to the rank of corporal; rode extremely well, and had the care of two horses; but was discovered at Carlisle to be a woman, when she was honourably discharged, after many marks of friendship shown her, not only by Major Horsley, in whose troop she rode, but by the other officers, and many of the inhabitants of Carlisle. She came to town, was much reduced, and, through mere necessity, stole the cloak for which she was tried and convicted.— She acknowledged her crime, said it was the first offence of the kind she had committed, and meant to make satisfaction. The Court passed a slight sentence upon her, and she was discharged from Newgate. The two undersheriffs, and the keeper, gave her some money to provide her a few necessaries, and she left the Court, promising henceforward to seek an honest livelihood in the proper habit of her sex. She was a masculine-looking woman, of about 30 years of age.

Another fair one, who assumed the breeches, was convicted on the 5th of July, 1777, of marrying three different women, by different fictitious names, and, under the assumed right of a husband, defrauding them of their property, and then absconding.

She was sentenced to stand in the pillory at Charing-cross, and to be imprisoned six months.

JOSEPH HODGES and RICHARD PROBEN,

CONVICTED AT THE OLD BAILEY, 1796, OF CROSS-DROPPING, AND
SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION.

FORMERLY this description of fraud was frequently practised in London upon countrymen; but in the present
sent

sent times it has become too well known to be often carried into effect. The dupe, in the present instance, was William Headley, an ironmonger at Cambridge, who, on the trial of these robbers, deposed, that on the 7th of July, 1796, he was in town going from Shoe lane to the Angel Inn, St. Clement's, to take a place on the outside of the coach, to see his brother in Wiltshire; he met Hodges in Butcher-row, and left him to take his place. Having taken it, Hodges overtook him in Clare-market: the witness staid in Clare-market, at Mr. Gardener's, about ten minutes, and when he came out, he went to go back to Shoe-lane, to his friends. Near Portugal-street he was overtaken by Hodges again; but before he saw him, he beheld a parcel lying at his right foot; Hodges clapped a hazel cane on the parcel; he was behind the witness: he picked up the parcel, and tore away the middle part of the paper, and shewed the red, which appeared like a pocket-book; he put it into his pocket, and took it out again in a minute, and opened the end, and doubled it as large as he possibly could, to satisfy the witness that there was something in it, and he told him he had got a finding; the witness asked him what it was, and he stopped near Mr. Chorley's, the Castle, in Portugal-street: he said, this was not a proper place to shew it in; and if the witness would go in, and have something to drink, he would shew it him: accordingly, he went in with him, and the prisoner Probin was there (that was the first time he saw him); Hodges took out the pocket-book, unfolded it, and produced a receipt from Mr. Smith, (which the witness shewed the Court,) and read as follows:

“London, 20th June, 1796. Received of John King, Esq. the sum of 320l. for one brilliant diamond cross, by me, William Smith.”

This was upon a fourpenny stamp; Hodges held it rather under the table, read the receipt, and seemed very much alarmed and confused at finding it. The witness read it, and then Hodges asked what must they do with the book and its contents; then he shewed the witness the cross, who thought it should be taken to this William Smith, the jeweller: he confessed himself much at a loss what to do with it, as he did not approve of sending it to

the jeweller; and asked the witness if he had any objection to its being mentioned to that gentleman (that was Probin); there was no other person then in the room, and they did not appear before that to know one another: the witness consented to its being shewn to him, and he asked him to give his opinion of this finding. Probin addressed himself to them with a great deal of politeness, and said, "Gentlemen, if you are in any difficulty, I will assist you;" and he asked if any body was near, or if they were both together; they told him nobody was near; he asked who picked it up; the witness told him, Hodges. Probin then said, he thought Hodges ought to make the witness a present, as being a party concerned. Hodges agreed to that proposal, and said, he would go to his banker's to get change for some drafts, to make him a present, as being with him when the parcel was found: he said, he should not be gone above ten minutes; but Probin said, "I think you should not take the pocket-book with you," and proposed it should be left with the witness. Hodges went, and returned in about ten minutes, very hot, and said, he had seen his banker, but he was obliged to go to 'Change, and he should not see him any more till four o'clock; the business was then put off till four o'clock, and a meeting was appointed at the Angel, behind St. Clement's. Probin asked the witness his name, and where he came from, and he told him; and Hodges gave him his name and address; saying, he came from Worcester, and was in the hop business: the witness forgot the name Hodges gave, but was sure it was not that of Hodges. Probin gave his name as William Jones, No. 7, Charing-cross. Probin then said, Hodges ought to have the pocket-book, and the valuable property in it, till four o'clock. Probin then asked the witness what he would leave to have the property left with him till four o'clock: he asked him if he would leave 100l. as a security for his meeting them. The witness pulled out some papers he had concealed in his stocking, and took out a bill of 100l.; it was a Bank-bill, on demand: Probin took it out of Hodges's hand, turned it over, and examined it: said it was pieced, but it would do very well. The witness left the note in the care of Hodges, and departed.

About

About five minutes after he shewed the cross to a friend ; and, from what he said, the witness was alarmed, and went to inquire for Mr. Jones, No. 7, Charing-cross, but he could find no such person ; and about two or three o'clock he gave information at Bow-street, and described the persons of the parties concerned. This event took place on Thursday, and Mr. Headley saw them in custody at Bow-street on the Monday following.

Mr. Lamb produced the Bank-note, which the prosecutor deposed to, as the same note he left with Hodges, the same number, and also knew it by being pieced.

Isaac Coxall, of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, swore that, on the 6th of July, he paid Mr. Headley a note of 100l. which he had received the day before at the Hitchin Bank, with some other notes, making 730l.

Mr. J. Thackery, cashier to the Hitchin Bank, remembered paying Mr. Coxall some notes on the 5th of July, and had no doubt whatever that the 100l. in question was one of them.

John Rivett, a police officer, went with others on the 7th of July in consequence of Mr. Headley's information, to Hodges's house, No. 12, Wild-court: Hodges was not at home ; Mrs. Hodges was. Rivett searched her, and found on her five ten pound notes of the Bank of England: he, Carpmeal, and Miller, remained in Hodges's house all night. About seven in the morning, Carpmeal and Rivett, being obliged to go about other business, left Miller and Berresford in the house. Probin was brought to Bow-street by Berresford, on the 8th, in the morning. Rivett searched Probin, and found four ten pound Bank-notes on him, and five guineas. Hodges was taken soon after. He also searched him, and found two guineas and a half, and two red morocco pocket-books ; one of them contained another cross, and the other nothing but a direction, " William Headley, Cambridge : " which was the direction Hodges wrote down in the presence of the prosecutor.

Robert Berresford, a constable of St. Clement's, swore, that on Friday morning, the 8th of July, he went to Hodges's house, and in about a quarter of an hour Probin came to the window ; the shutters were a little open ; he

peeped in, and Hodges's wife waved her hand to him to go away ; he did not take the hint directly, but came and peeped in again, and she waved her hand again ; the witness then ran out of the room, and said, " Mr. Hodges, I want you ;" the witness seized him, supposing him to be Hodges. He said his name was not Hodges, and refused to go with him ; but finding the witness resolute, he went quietly to Bow-street, where he was left in custody. The witness then went back to Hodges's house, and in about twenty minutes Hodges opened the door and came in. Hodges's wife got up and asked, " When did you hear from our friends in Cirencester ? my husband will be there next week." The witness thought he answered the description of Hodges, and secured him also.

John Furmean, a jeweller, said there was no intrinsic value in either of the diamond crosses. He would not give any thing for either if offered to him for sale.

Mr. Francis Salkeld, one of the cashiers of the Bank, swore that he gave value for the 100l. Bank-note, and also to his writing on the face of it, " W. Hodges, Holborn." The prisoner represented himself to be William Hodges, the witness supposed, by his writing that upon it : he gave ten ten-pound Bank-notes, as appeared by the book. On looking at four Bank-notes, which were found on Probin, the witness said they answered in date and number to the four in his entry.

Probin, in his defence, said, that the notes which were found on him were Hodges's, who, having been intoxicated the preceding night, had given him his pocket-book to take care of. Hodges made no defence. They were both found guilty, and sentenced to be transported each for seven years.

CHARLES

CHARLES SCOLDWELL,

(*A Sheriff's Officer,*)

CONVICTED OF STEALING TWO DUCKS, AND SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR SEVEN YEARS.

THIS extraordinary transaction took place at Bedfont, near Hammersmith; and the trial came on at the Old-Bailey, before the Recorder, July 23d, 1796. The indictment merely went to the feloniously stealing two live tame ducks; and it was stated by Mr. Alley, counsel for the prosecution, that this theft, or act of grand larceny, was attended with many aggravating circumstances of oppression. The prisoner, who was a servant of the law, was executing a writ which he had against the prosecutor, Mr. Spurling; the debt amounted to 16l. 7s. At ten at night the prisoner obtained admission to Mr. Spurling, and informed him he had a writ against him, and he must immediately go with him to Newgate; to this the prosecutor demurred, as to the harshness of the intended removal, for if there was any demand against him he was ready to settle it. The prisoner replied, "No, no, you shall not settle it; you must immediately come with me to Newgate, and you must hire a post-chaise." Poor Mr. Spurling replied, "That is hard to be obliged to hire a post-chaise to carry one's self to Newgate; if you will take me in an humble single-horse chaise, which I have of my own, I will go with you to Newgate." The prisoner's follower, whose name was Taylor, said, he thought they had better settle the matter; and, in the prisoner's presence, asked him what kind of accommodation he could afford. Mr. Spurling said, "I have 15l. in the house that you shall have and something, else to secure the balance, being 1l. 7s." Upon this the prisoner asked him if he had a watch; and he replying in the affirmative, the prisoner immediately said, "I must have that." This treatment was the more oppressive at that period, as his wife was then very near that crisis, when every good husband is more than ordinarily careful of his wife's safety; and, therefore, Mr. Spurling, rather than leave his wife in that situation,

situation, gave the prisoner his watch, which he took, together with the 15l. already mentioned. Scoldwell had no sooner got possession of these, than he increased his demand: says he, "This is a trifling thing; such gentlemen as we are cannot come into the country without something to bear our expenses." Upon that, he asked the prosecutor for some money: who replied, that "he had only a few halfpence left, which he had taken in the course of his trade on that day, and which amounted to about ten shillings:" Scoldwell received that ten shillings also. The prisoner soon after asked if there were no fowls about the house. Mr. Spurling told him he had only one or two. Then the prisoner inquired for a goose, because, he said, his wife was very fond of goose. The prosecutor said, he had one; and the prisoner said, he would take it to town. On the prosecutor's remonstrating with him, the prisoner said he must have a goose; the prosecutor then let him have one. Still the rapacity of this man was not satisfied: he was no sooner possessed of this, but, taking advantage of the prosecutor's peculiar situation with respect to his wife, he pursued his demands, extending even to the lease of the house. The prosecutor, wearied with his repeated exactions, told him the lease was his all, for he had expended 300l. on the premises a short time before; however, the prisoner obtained possession of this lease also. These demands being thus complied with, the prisoner at the bar was still discontented: he said, "I must have a note for 40l. on condition that the lease, watch, and every thing, shall be mine, unless this debt and costs are legally settled within twenty-one days." This note, also, the prosecutor gave him; and here was a termination to such almost boundless rapacity. The prisoner left the prosecutor at about four or five in the morning, who, having to prepare his bread, retired to his bake-house: he saw the prisoner, however, going towards the stable, in which were those two ducks which are the subject of inquiry. The prisoner soon after left the stable and went away. About six in the morning, the prosecutor's wife ordered the ducks to be let out and fed, as they formerly had been; the ducks were gone from the stable. The prosecutor, it appears, saw those two ducks there

there about two hours before ; and he could prove positively that they were actually in the stable at that very time. He could also prove that nobody went into the stable but the prisoner ; and a sort of confession, or at least an admission, by the prisoner himself, was established, that he was the person who stole these ducks ; for it happened that the prisoner, as he was coming back to town, met with a driver of a stage-coach : he got on the top of the coach ; and, in the course of a few miles, not foreseeing, at the moment, the event of this evening, tapped the coachman on the shoulder, and cried out *Quack ! Quack ! Tick ! Tick !* The coachman asked what he meant ; the prisoner replied “ I have done the baker out of his ducks ! I have done the baker out of his watch ! ” When they had proceeded a great way further, the coachman stopping to water, the ducks were falling out of the prisoner’s pocket, and the coachman said to him, “ Mr. Constable, if you do not take care you will lose the ducks you have stolen : ” his reply was not a denial of that charge : “ No, no,” says he, “ I will take care, I will keep them fast.”

The prosecutor deposed that the prisoner came to Bedfont on the 22d of July last, about ten at night ; Mr. Spurling and his servants were at supper. The prisoner came in, and looked hard at him, and said, “ Do not you know me ? ” Spurling said “ No.” He said, “ Is this all you have for supper ? ”—(it was some bacon :) he then sat down, and said he had a writ for the prosecutor from Mr. Allen. Spurling said, if he sat down he might probably settle it, or give bail. The prisoner said, he should have no bail, for there was no bail, but he should go to London directly, whether the horses had eat their victuals or not, he should go to Newgate, and that would cost him two guineas. Spurling then went into the house with the prisoner, and staid about an hour, when the prisoner took all the things : they then went into the bake-house ; the prisoner looked into the oven, and then he went into the wash-house ; that was about half past five ; he went out of the wash-house into the stable : he staid there seven or eight minutes ; Spurling remained in the bake-house, making his dough, and lighting his fire ; he went out of the stable, and said, “ Good morning to you.”

In

In about half an hour after he was gone, the maid went in first, and the ducks, which were white ducks, were gone. The prosecutor denied ever having made a present to the prisoner of a duck. He had given him a 40l. note, and his lease, for security.

The prisoner also had a great bason of halfpence, and the prosecutor's watch. On the 13th of August he came down to arrest him the second time upon another suit: he then brought a note which Spurling had given him before, for 4l. 19s. and, says he, "here is your note, it is good for nothing, take your balderdash note." Spurling said, "You have never been to see whether the man would take it or not:" says he, "I will have none of your notes, nor your nonsense; pay me the money you owe me." The prosecutor asked him, "What do I owe you?" "Why, (says he,) now I must have nine pounds." The prosecutor did not know then that he had stolen his ducks. He did not charge him with the offence till the 16th of August, when he came to give the bail-bond in London, as he did not know it for a certainty before. They then dined together in the city at the Red Lion; and, when filling up the bail-bond, the prosecutor accused him of stealing his ducks: when the prisoner was very angry, and called him out of the room, saying, "I did have your ducks; but if you make any more piece of work, I will lock you up directly." Mr. Wager (the prosecutor's bail) said, his friend should not be locked up, for he had 50l. by him, and he should not be locked up.

Joseph Sadler, the coachman, swore that the ducks were white which the prisoner boasted he had done the oaker out of.

William Wager, who keeps the Duke's Head at Bedford, deposed, that, on the 16th of August, he went to Mr. Scoldwell's house, who asked him where the baker was. The witness told him, gone into the city about some business: he said he wanted him there to lock him up. The witness asked him what he could want to lock him up for; was he not come to give bail? The prisoner said, he must do his duty and lock him up. The witness told him to come with him into the city, and they should meet him. The witness then asked him how he came to do



MRS PHIPPOE.

do the baker out of his ducks: his wife said, "What ducks?" Wager told her, two ducks which the baker missed, and which Sadler told him he had: his wife said, she was sure he had brought no ducks there. When the prisoner and witness came out, the former was very angry that mention was made of the ducks to his wife: "Do you think," said he, "that I take every thing home to my wife that I get? I had them dressed before I got home at night."

After the examination of several other witnesses, the fact, as laid in the indictment, being clearly proved, the Recorder summed up the evidence; and the jury, after half an hour's consideration, returned a verdict of "Guilty."

The prisoner, aged forty-one, was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE,

(Known also by the Name of Mary Benson,)

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, DEC. 11, 1797, FOR MURDER.

THIS was a woman of a masculine behaviour, and of a daring disposition; as will be fully shewn in detailing the particulars of her very interesting trials.

Two years only, previous to her committing the horrid murder for which she suffered, she was convicted of forcibly taking from Mr. John Cortois a promissory note of hand, for 2000*l*.

The manner in which she extorted this property is highly characteristic of the ferocity of her nature. She then kept a house and a servant, for the purpose of receiving visits from the other sex.

Among other dupes to her artifice was Mr. John Cortois, whom she seized soon after he had sat down in her house, and, knowing that he possessed considerable property, bound him, with the assistance of the other desperate female, acting as her servant, to his chair with a cord, and with horrid imprecations threatening, and even at-

tempting to cut his throat, unless he gave her his note for 2000l. In a state of terror he signed the written instrument. This done, the ferocious female thought she might negotiate the note with more safety if he was killed, calling to mind Satan's proverb, that "Dead men tell no tales." For this diabolical purpose, she again attempted to murder him, and ordered him instantly to prepare for death, either by swallowing arsenic, by a pistol, or stabbing with a knife, which she brandished over his head. At length the terrified gentleman became desperate in his turn, and attempted to escape. Mrs. Phipoe seized him, from whose masculine gripe, with the utmost exertion, he extricated himself, but not without having several of his fingers badly cut with the said knife, in the struggle.

For this most atrocious offence, than which none ever more deserved death, she was indicted and tried.

The infamous accomplice, acting the character of her servant, was admitted evidence for the prosecution, and she, as well as Mr. Cortois, swore to the facts above mentioned.

She was found guilty; but her counsel (for the most infamous are allowed counsel) moved in arrest of judgment, and an argument upon a point of law: it was determined, that great as were the aggravations in committing the crime, it did not come within the statute to make it felony without benefit of clergy.

She was therefore indicted for the assault, found guilty, and sentenced on the 23d of May, 1795, to twelve months imprisonment in Newgate.

If the mind of such a woman as she whom we now present had wanted aught in the scale of vice, a year's confinement in Newgate would have supplied every defect. Mrs. Phipoe was discharged, at the expiration of that term, bent upon crimes, blood, and plunder.

So great was now her propensity to sin, that but a very few months elapsed, ere, in her rapid course of vice, she committed the murder for which she was executed. The following are the shocking particulars of the horrid transaction.

She was indicted by the different names already given, for that she, the said prisoner, not having the fear of God before

before her eyes, but being moved by the instigation of the devil, did, in Garden-street, in the parish of St. George's in the East, with malice aforethought, on the body of Mary Cox, commit the foul crime of murder.

It appeared in evidence that the deceased was acquainted with the prisoner, and that she had called at her lodgings that morning.

Soon after the mistress of the house heard a scuffle and a groaning; she called two neighbours, and, going to the prisoner's door, which was locked, asked what was the matter. She replied the woman was only in a fit, and that she was getting better. She then opened the door a little, when the witness saw she was bloody; two persons went for a doctor, and a third, pushing open the door, saw the deceased bleeding upon the ground: she ran down stairs, crying murder, and, to her great terror, was followed by the wounded woman, who laid hold of her: Mrs. Benson came down after the deceased was got into the kitchen, where she was when the surgeons and beadles came; she was unable to speak, but yet made herself understood by one of the beadles, that she had been thus wounded by the woman up stairs.

He went up to the prisoner, who was sitting on the bed, and said to her, "For God Almighty's sake, what have you done to the woman below?" She answered, "I don't know; I believe the devil and passion bewitched me." There was part of a finger and a case-knife lying upon the table; he said, "Is this the knife you did the woman's business with?" She answered, "Yes." Is this your finger?" "Yes." "Did the woman below cut it off?" "Yes;" but this the deceased denied, upon his afterwards questioning her upon it.

The surgeon described the deceased to have received five stabs upon the throat and neck, besides several wounds in different parts of the body, and agreed with the surgeon, who afterwards attended her in the hospital, that those wounds were undoubtedly the cause of her death. The day after, the deceased made a declaration before a magistrate, wherein she stated, that she had purchased of the prisoner a gold watch and other articles, for which she paid eleven pounds, and then asked for a china coffee-

cup, which stood upon the chimney-piece, into the bargain: the prisoner bid her take one; but, in doing so, she stabbed her in the neck, and afterwards had her under her hands more than an hour, she calling murder all the time, till at last she got her upon the bed, when she said she would kill her outright, that she might not tell her own story.

The prisoner, in her defence, said, that the deceased wished to purchase only part of the things which she wished to dispose of, and, upon her refusing to divide them, she became angry, and said that she only wanted the money to go to London to be Cortois's mistress again: the prisoner replied, that was a lie, for she never had been Cortois's mistress; the deceased retorted, that it had been proved so at the Old Bailey. She said, that was a damned lie; and from this they both proceeded to very abusive language, and much violence.

There were two knives lying upon the table; the deceased took up one, and, making a violent blow at the prisoner, cut off one of her fingers. In the heat of her passion, full of pain, and streaming with blood, she stabbed her; but solemnly declared she had no recollection of what passed afterwards, until she found herself in her own room, covered with blood. This, she said, was the truth; the deceased, if alive, must confess she had been most in fault; and that which affected her the most was, that she had done her any injury.

The landlady where the deceased lived, and another person to whom she was well known, proved that she had a great respect for the prisoner, and had often heard her declare she believed the prisoner had the same for her.

Mr. Baron Perryn, who tried the prisoner, then addressed the jury, as follows:

“Gentlemen,

“This is a charge against the prisoner at the bar, Maria Theresa Phipoe, otherwise Mary Benson, for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, by stabbing her in different parts of the body, and giving her several mortal wounds, of which

which she died : you have heard the evidence on both sides, both on the part of the prosecution, and also on the part of the prisoner, at considerable length ; and all that will be necessary for me, in the discharge of my duty, will be to recapitulate that evidence, and, if I mistake in any point, I request the counsel on both sides will correct me. [Here the learned judge summed up the evidence on both sides, and then added,] Gentlemen, this is the evidence : it is a very suspicious circumstance against the prisoner that she should send out her landlady at that particular time to buy brandy and bread, and, when she returned, to prevent her bringing it up stairs, saying it would not be wanted for some time ; that is a presumption that she was occupied about something which interested her at that time : with respect to the understanding of the prisoner, the witnesses have all sworn, who speak to that point, that she was in her proper senses ; you have heard the defence which she has made ; now, to be sure, if she had given the same account to the beadles, which she has done in court to day, it would have operated very much in her favour : if this latter account was true, what could be the meaning of concealing the knife in her bosom, and giving it up with so much reluctance ?

“ It was stated by the deceased, and by several witnesses, that she had locked the door, and for some time denied admission to the neighbours. If she had been attacked, as she alleged, and was so remarkably subject to passion, why did she obstruct the means of preventing her passion from producing any mischief ? Her threatening to kill the deceased outright, that she might not be able to tell her own story, was a very unfavourable circumstance to her. There does not appear to be any colour for her barbarous treatment of the deceased, who had always regarded her with affection ; and all the evidence which the prisoner has produced in her behalf does not appear to me to diminish the enormity of the charge against her. But it is for you to pronounce, in the case, as it appears to your judgments and consciences ; if, from all the circumstances, you are of opinion that she has intentionally and maliciously committed the crime charged against her, you must find her guilty ; but if it appears to you that the deceased was
the

the aggressor, and drew her fate upon herself, you will of course pronounce a verdict of acquittal."

The jury retired for twenty minutes, and returned with a verdict of "Guilty."

Proclamation being made in the usual form, Mr. Baron Perryn immediately proceeded to pass sentence, that she should be executed on the Monday following, and her body afterwards dissected and anatomized, according to the statute.

When the Judge came to this part of the sentence, the prisoner said, "You may speak out, I am not afraid:" and when he had finished with the usual words, "The Lord have mercy on your soul," she said, "I do not place very great dependence on *your* mercy."

The prisoner appeared, both before and after the examination of the witnesses, much concerned about her property, and said she had not received back all the money that lay about the room when the officers entered it; and on the two notes being produced in court, she said they were not hers, for the property she required was all in gold.

However improper her conduct was before, she now behaved with due decorum, being attended by a Roman Catholic priest.

She left a guinea for the most deserving debtor in the gaol, and gave the same sum to the executioner.

After hanging an hour in the view of a great number of spectators, one third of whom were females, the body was cut down, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

In her last moments she confessed the justness of her sentence, but denied her having cut off her own finger, saying it was done in the scuffle with the woman she murdered. She also denied to the last having poisoned a young woman some years since, who had left her a legacy of one thousand pounds. She owned to have been guilty of many enormities, and attributed her frequent gusts of passion to the use of laudanum.

Her body was publicly exhibited in a place built for the purpose in the Old Bailey.

JAMES

JAMES O'COIGLEY,

EXECUTED ON PENNINGDON HEATH, JUNE 7, 1798, FOR HIGH TREASON.

THE solemn, impressive, dying declaration of this unfortunate gentleman, must certainly create a distressing pause in every reader.

We have frequently shewn that obdurate and ignorant criminals have died in a declaration of innocence, when crimes have been proved against them, beyond the very shadow of doubt ; but when a man, born and educated a gentleman, a scholar, and receiving the last sacrament of his religion, appeals to his God, in whose awful presence he is so shortly to appear, and solemnly avows to the surrounding multitude, gathered together to witness his untimely end, his perfect and entire innocence of the crime for which he has been convicted, charity will force us to question his guilt.

The times in which he suffered were dangerous to the constitution of the kingdom.

There were then, both in England, Ireland, and Scotland, many disaffected men, the leaders of parties assembling for purposes inimical to the public weal. Many had been apprehended, and several had already suffered death, acknowledging their crimes ; and others by all ranks deemed guilty.

In cases of this nature the public mind is in a state of alarm, and all accused stand condemned by individuals : thus an inward detestation is felt in every loyal breast against those charged of joining in a plot against the nation ; and hence the minds of jurymen must feel a strong bias against their fellows, arraigned for their lives, on which they are to determine. These are the irresistible workings of nature ; and it might so unfortunately have turned out that Mr. O'Coigley was a victim.

We offer these observations as a tribute of charity for the departed man ; yet we truly hope, dreadful as the alternative in thought may be, that he died fairly convicted of the crime for which he suffered.

His best friends must certainly admit that suspicion might well fall upon any man thus connected with Arthur O'Connor,

O'Connor, an apostate Irishman, who certainly attempted to sell his country to the foe, and was subseuently high in rank in the service of the tyrant Buonaparte.

Such was the ill fate of O'Coigley ; who, together with the above-named O'Connor, John Binns, John Allen, and Jeremiah Leary, were arraigned at the Lent assizes for Kent, in 1798, of whom O'Coigley alone was found guilty; sufficient proof, however guilty the remainder in conscience were, not being adduced to convict them.

The indictment was read by Mr. Knapp, who afterwards stated the charges it contained in a summary manner. He said there were three distinct species of treason charged in the indictment, and seven overt-acts. The first treason was compassing and imagining the death of the king ; the second was adhering to his enemies ; the third was compassing and imagining, inventing, devising, and intending to move and stir certain foreigners and strangers, that is to say, the persons exercising the powers of government in France, to invade his kingdom.

The first overt-act was, conspiring to levy war at Margate, in the county of Kent : the second overt-act, sending intelligence to the enemy : the other overt-acts were, attempts to hire vessels, and to leave the kingdom.

The trial lasted two days. A pocket-book had been found in O'Coigley's great-coat, in which was a paper addressed to the Executive Directory of France, from the Secret Committee of England.

O'Coigley, in his defence, addressed the jury as follows :

“ It is impossible for me to prove a negative ; but it is a duty I owe to you, and to myself, solemnly to declare, that I never was the bearer of any message or paper of this kind to France, in the course of my life. That paper is not mine ; it never belonged to me. It states that it was to be carried by the bearer of the last ; this is something which might have been proved, but it is impossible for me to prove the negative. There is also in this paper an allusion to secret committees and political societies. I declare that I never attended any political society whatever. With these considerations I consign my life to your justice ; not doubting but that you will conduct yourselves as
English

English jurymen ever do, and that your verdict will be such as shall receive the approbation of your own conscience, your country, and your God."

The jury, after about half an hour's consideration, found O'Coigley "Guilty," and acquitted the other prisoners.

Mr. Justice Buller, in an address to O'Coigley, which he read from a written paper, previous to his passing the sentence, observed, "that he had been clearly convicted of the most atrocious crime which could be committed in any country—that of meditating the destruction of a Sovereign, who was one of the best, the most just, upright, and amiable of princes that ever graced a throne; and he could not conceive what were the motives which could actuate any man even to wish for the death of such a monarch, who had ever been the father of his people.

"The prisoner was also found guilty of conspiring to overturn the constitution of these kingdoms; a constitution which, from the experiment of years, had been found to be the best calculated of any that ever existed in the world to ensure the liberty, security, and happiness, of the people who lived under it.

"These atrocious crimes became still greater from the manner in which they were intended to be perpetrated—that of inviting a foreign enemy to come and invade and conquer these countries.

"Those people who thought such an event a desirable one ought to consider seriously what the consequences of it would be, provided it was possible to be accomplished. Did they suppose that (desperate as their present situation might be) their condition would be bettered by having their country put into the possession of people who were holding out the delusive hopes of what they called liberty to other nations? Could such persons hope that they themselves should enjoy liberty, even supposing the conquerors to have possessed as free a constitution as any in the world? No, they would become suspected, be despised, and destroyed by them.

"A celebrated writer (Montesquieu) justly observed upon this subject, that a country conquered by a democratic nation always enjoyed less liberty, was more miser-

able, and more enslaved, than if that country happened to have been conquered by a nation whose government was monarchical. But, if there was any illustration of this observation wanting, one had only to look to the conduct of the French at this moment towards Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country they had conquered. His lordship believed that the prisoner might have been actuated by motives similar to those which used formerly to induce many people to think that the killing of men of a different religion would give them a claim to canonization. But, though the motives might be similar, the subjects connected with them were very different. In the present times, he did not believe that any person entertained such sentiments about religion. On the contrary, he was sorry to find that religion was too much neglected, and that the peace and tranquillity of numbers of people were destroyed in consequence of having lost all belief of the existence of a Divine Providence, and totally abandoned all hopes of a future state. He was afraid that the prisoner had been infected with this infidelity, and, if he was, he (the Judge) prayed that the Almighty God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, would change his heart, and cause him to repent of his sins."

His lordship then, in a solemn and awful manner, passed the following sentence:

"That the prisoner be taken from the bar to prison, and from thence to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not until he be dead; to be cut down while yet alive, and then to have his heart and bowels taken out and burnt before his face; his head to be severed from his body; and his body to be divided into four quarters."

Mr. O'Coigley listened to this address and sentence with attention, but at the same time with the greatest coolness. He bowed his head when the Judge concluded, his countenance expressing at once resignation and firmness.

Immediately after the sentence was passed on O'Coigley, Mr. O'Connor, supposing himself at liberty, attempted to withdraw, when a warrant was served on him on another charge of high treason, signed by the Duke of Portland, and dated March 22. On this some swords were drawn, and a general confusion ensued, when Mr. O'Connor

O'Connor addressed the Court to this effect : " My Lord, I am surrounded with drawn swords,—I am prepared to die ; and it would be better for the Court to doom me to death at once, than that I should linger out my life in a gaol.—Have the goodness to send me to the dungeon where my brother is in confinement, after having been acquitted on a charge of high treason in Ireland. At all events, will your lordship order that my agent may be permitted to come to me ?"

The Court said they could make no order—their commission ended with the trial.

O'Coigley, on Wednesday, June 6, 1798, between four and five in the afternoon, received information that he was to die next day, without apparent emotion. He spent the evening very calmly. He had but one thing, he said, on his mind, which created any anxiety ; that was, an apprehension that he might be misrepresented after his death. He was anxious to be faithfully reported, and that was all he wanted. On Thursday, at a quarter past eleven o'clock, O'Coigley left the gaol. He was dressed all in black ; his hair was cropped and powdered, his shirt collar open, and he wore no neck-cloth. His elbows were tied behind with ropes, and over his shoulders was the rope with which he was executed. He stepped into the hurdle, and on his sitting down a chain was put round his waist to fasten him. The executioners sat opposite to him. He had nothing on his head. He continued all the way earnestly reading a prayer-book. Mr. Watson, the gaoler, followed the hurdle, which was surrounded by above 200 of the Maidstone volunteers. The deputy sheriff and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths followed. The whole was preceded by about 20 javelin-men. The hurdle was drawn up close in front of the gallows, on Penningdon-heath, and the horses were taken out. The military formed a small square. The prisoner being unchained, he rose up and stood in the hurdle, and read two prayers, one of them aloud, in Latin. He then took out of his pocket an orange, and also a penknife ; but being unable to cut the orange, from his hands being bound, he gave it to a friend, whom he beckoned to come near him, saying, " Open this orange with my penknife ; it has been said they would not trust

me with a penknife, lest I should cut my throat ; but they little knew that I would not deprive myself of the glory of dying in this way." He desired his friend to keep the penknife for his sake, and to hold the orange, several pieces of which he ate. After finishing his devotions, the clergyman gave him absolution, to whom he returned the prayer-book ; and, having ascended the platform, he took farewell of the gaoler, thanking him for the many civilities he had shewn him. On his being tied up to the gallows, he made the following speech :

"I shall only here solemnly declare, that I am innocent of the charge for which I suffer. I never was in my life the bearer of any letter, or other paper or message, printed, written, or verbal, to the Directory of France, nor to any person on their behalf ; neither was I ever a member of the London Corresponding Society, or of any other political society in Great Britain ; nor did I ever attend any of their meetings, public or private—so help me God ! I know not whether I shall be believed here in what I say, but I am sure I shall be believed in the world to come. It can scarcely be supposed, that one like me, in this situation, going to eternity, before the most awful tribunal, would die with a falsehood in his mouth ; and I do declare, by the hopes I confidently feel of salvation, and happiness in a future state, that my life is falsely and maliciously taken away by corrupt and base perjury, and subornation of perjury, in some cases proceeding from mistake, no doubt, but in others from design.—Almighty God, forgive all my enemies !—I beg of you to pray that God will grant me grace—for I have many sins to answer for, but they are the sins of my private life, and not the charge for which I now die." (Raising his voice,) "Lord, have mercy on me, and receive my soul !"

A white night-cap was then drawn over his face, and he made a signal by dropping a handkerchief. The board was then let down, as at Newgate, and he remained suspended for twelve or thirteen minutes ; he was then taken down, the head taken off by a surgeon, and the executioner held up the head to the populace, saying. "This is the head of a traitor !" Both head and body were then put into a shell, and buried at the foot of the gallows.

JAMES

JAMES M'KEAN,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER, JANUARY 25, 1797, AT GLASGOW.

THE crime in question was perpetrated with singular treachery and cruelty. M'Kean kept a public house, on the high road between Glasgow and Larneck. A carrier of the name of James Buchanan, about six o'clock one evening in winter time, came to his house for rest and refreshment.

The monster of a landlord conducted the weary traveller to a room, then suddenly seized him, and instantly cut his throat with a razor, which divided both the carotid arteries, and robbed him of his watch, and a considerable sum in money. A noise having excited some surprise in his wife, she ran to the door, which was opened by M'Kean. Alarmed at the sight of some blood lying on the floor, she shrieked "Murder!" on which her husband instantly ran off.

The body of Buchanan was found in a closet, by people whom her cries had brought to the house, and the razor reeking with blood.

M'Kean was apprehended at Lamlash, in the Isle of Arran, on Sunday. Next morning he was conveyed to Glasgow, in a post-chaise. On his arrival, about eight o'clock, the joy of the populace, at his apprehension, could not be restrained: they hailed the officers with loud acclamations, and the air resounded with huzzas when they saw him securely lodged in gaol.

Buchanan's pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of 118*l.* his watch, and several papers, were found upon M'Kean. On his examination by the magistrates, M'Kean confessed the robbery, but endeavoured to palliate the charge of murder.

This wretch, being found guilty, was executed at the Cross of Glasgow, on a newly-erected gibbet. He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in white, about ten minutes after three; proceeded to the front with a firm and undaunted air, holding a paper in his hand; and after saying a few words to the multitude, which was immense, (about
twenty

twenty thousand) he gave it to one of the town officers. About ten minutes thereafter he mounted the platform with much indifference, and, after praying a few minutes, was launched into eternity, without one sympathizing tear from the surrounding multitude.

GEORGE WALDRON, alias BARRINGTON,

(The Gentleman Pickpocket.)

SEVERAL TIMES CONVICTED—SENTENCED TWICE TO HARD LABOUR ON THE THAMES—AND FINALLY, ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1798, TRANSPORTED TO BOTANY BAY.

HUMAN nature never, perhaps, suffered greater degradation than in the person of that notorious character, so well known as George Barrington. We could not, indeed, various as we have already shewn the shades of guilt, have expected to find, in the melancholy catalogue of crimes, a man of excellent education and brilliant talents, handsome in person, accomplished in manners, and, in fine, with every assumed demeanour that constitutes a gentleman, descend to support himself by the most base and cowardly mode of thieving—that of picking pockets—yet just such a character was George Waldron, under the assumed name of Barrington.

During his career of vice, which his great ingenuity prolonged to several years' duration, many catchpenny publications appeared, impudently asserting that their paltry sheets contained his genuine memoirs: and, as each differed in their fabrications, Barrington made a more than Proteus-like appearance in the minds of such as might have unwarily read them.

They began their discordance, even with his birth, some averring that the town of Rush, others insisting that Kilkenny, was his native place. Be it, therefore, (as, indeed, we have ever done,) our duty to give a finished sketch of this most extraordinary character.

George Waldron (but, as being best known, we shall call him in future by his assumed name of Barrington) was
born





born at a village called Maynooth, in the county of Kildare, Ireland.

His father, Henry Waldron, was a working silversmith; and his mother, whose maiden name was Naith, was a mantuamaker, and occasionally a midwife. His parents, though not affluent, had him instructed in reading and writing at an early age; afterwards, through the bounty of a medical gentleman in the neighbourhood, he was taught common arithmetic, the elements of geography, and the English grammar.*

When sixteen years of age, he was noticed and patronized by a dignitary in the church of Ireland, who placed him at a free grammar-school, and intended him for the university; however, he forfeited this gentleman's favour by his ill conduct at school, having, in a quarrel, stabbed one of his school-fellows with a penknife. For this vindictive act he was well flogged; in consequence of which he ran away from school, in 1771, having previously found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from his master, and a gold repeating watch from his master's sister. He walked all night till he arrived at an obscure inn at Drogheda, where he happened to meet and become acquainted with a company of strolling players, whose manager was one John Price, an abandoned character; who, having been convicted of a fraud in London, was an involuntary exile in Ireland, until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced to be transported.

He now engaged our fugitive, who, in consequence, adopted the name of Barrington, as one of his performers, and who, it seems, became the hero of his company.—While performing the character of Jaffier, in “*Venice Preserved*,” he made a conquest of the tender Belvidera, (Miss Egerton), and to the credit of Barrington, it must be acknowledged, that he took no mean advantage of her passion, but returned it with perfect sincerity.

The company being now reduced by the expenses of travelling, &c. to extreme indigence, Price, the manager, prevailed upon Barrington to undertake the profession of a pickpocket, which business he commenced in the sum-

* From this patronage, he afterwards pretended, occasionally, to be one of the medical profession.

mer of the year 1771, having then renounced the stage. He soon after lost his faithful Miss Egerton, who was drowned, in the eighteenth year of her age, in crossing the river Boyne, through the culpable negligence of a ferryman.

He then commenced what is called a gentleman pick-pocket, by affecting the airs and importance of a man of fashion ; but was so much alarmed at the detection and conviction of his preceptor Price, (who was sentenced to transportation for seven years,) that he hastened to Dublin, where he practised his pilfering art during dark evenings.

At one of the races in the county of Carlow he was detected picking the pocket of Lord B. but on restoring the property this nobleman declined any prosecution, and Barrington accordingly left Ireland, and for the first time appeared in England in 1773. On his first visit to Ranelagh with a party, he left his friends, and picked the pockets of the Duke of L. and Sir W. of a considerable sum ; and also took from a lady a watch, with all which he got off undiscovered, and rejoined his friends.

In 1775, he visited the most celebrated watering places, particularly Brighton, and, being supposed a gentleman of fortune and family, was noticed by persons of the first distinction.

On his return to London he formed a connexion with one Lowe, and became a more daring pickpocket. He went to court on the queen's birth-day, as a clergyman, and not only picked several pockets, but found means to deprive a nobleman of his diamond order, and retired from the place without suspicion. It is said that this booty was disposed of to a Dutch Jew.

Count Orlov, the Russian minister, being in one of the boxes of Drury-lane playhouse, was robbed of a gold snuff-box, set with diamonds, estimated to be worth an immense sum ; and one of the count's attendants, suspecting Barrington, seized him, and found the snuff-box in his possession. He was examined by Sir John Fielding, but the count, being in a foreign country, was influenced by motives of delicacy to decline a prosecution.

Being soon after in the House of Lords, when an appeal
of

of an interesting nature was to come on, a Mr. G. recognised his person, and, applying to the deputy usher of the black rod, he was disgracefully turned out. He now threatened Mr. G. with revenge, upon which a warrant was granted to bind him over to keep the peace; and as he could find no surety, he was obliged to go to Tothill-fields' prison bridewell, where he remained some time.

On being released, he returned to his old profession, and was about three months after convicted of picking the pocket of Mrs. Dudman, at Drury-lane theatre, and was sentenced to three years' hard labour on the Thames.

Hitherto our pickpocket hero had a faithful confederate in the execution of his plans of robbery. This helpmate was a Miss West, of nearly equal notoriety as a sharpening courtesan.

Barrington being now safely confined on board the hulk at Woolwich, his associate and friend, Miss West, was compelled to plan and execute alone: not that she found herself at any mighty loss; but the forcible impression made on her feelings by the deprivation of so near a favourite oppressed her spirits, and rendered dormant, for a short time, that inherent vigour for active life, which she had hitherto constantly displayed.

To sooth the gloomy hours of captivity as much as possible, she constantly sent Mr. Barrington two guineas per week, and paid him personal visits as often as opportunity would permit.

In one of these excursions she fell into the company of David Brown Dignum, another convict of notoriety, and who, having plenty of cash, was selected as a proper object for the display of this lady's talents; and she actually perpetrated the deed in the midst of the seat of punishment, and congratulated herself, not a little, on the brilliancy of her success. But Barrington, who always strongly supported the common maxim, "That there is honesty among thieves," compelled her to restore the plunder, though much against her inclination.

This audacious woman was, in all, tried seven times at the Old Bailey, four of which she was acquitted, and found guilty the other three.

The last public offence she committed was on the 14th

of February, 1777, when she robbed Gilbert Affleck, Esq. of a watch, chain, and seals, value 8l. and was detected in endeavouring to hand it to an associate, disguised with a black patch over his eye. She was found guilty by the jury, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in Newgate.

About the expiration of her time she caught the gaol distemper, and died in a fortnight after her discharge had taken place; thus yielding up her last breath in perfect conformity with the infamous tenor of her life.

After sustaining something less than a twelvemonth's punishment, he was again set at liberty, in consequence of his good behaviour, through the interference of Messrs. Erskine and Duncan Campbell, the superintendents of the convicts.

A few days after his release he went to St. Sepulchre's church, when Dr. Mylne was to preach a charity sermon, for the benefit of the Society for the Recovery of Persons apparently Drowned. William Payne, a constable, saw him put his hand into a lady's pocket in the south aisle, and presently after followed him out of the church, and took him into custody near the end of Cock-lane, upon Snow-hill.

Having taken the prisoner to St. Sepulchre's watch-house, and found a gold watch, and some other articles, in his possession, Payne returned to the church, and spoke to the lady whom he had seen the prisoner attempt to rob. She informed him she had lost nothing; for, expecting the church to be much crowded, she had taken the precaution of emptying her pockets before she left her house. Upon Payne's return to the watch-house, a gentleman advised that the prisoner might be more strictly searched. He was desired to take off his hat, and, raising his left arm, he cautiously removed his hat from his head, when a metal watch dropped upon the floor. He was now obliged to pull off the greatest part of his clothes. He wore three pair of breeches, in the pockets of one of which was found a purse, containing thirteen guineas, and a bank note for 10l. made payable to himself.

In consequence of an advertisement inserted the next day in the newspapers, Mrs. Ironmonger came to Payne's house,

house, and described the watch she had lost ; and it proved to be that which had been concealed in Barrington's hair, and dropped on the floor when he took off his hat. She attended the examination of the prisoner, and, having sworn that the watch produced by Payne was her property, was bound over to prosecute.

Upon his trial Barrington made a long, an artful, and a plausible defence. He said that, upon leaving the church, he perceived the watch mentioned in the indictment lying upon the ground, and took it up, intending to advertise it the next day ; that he was followed to Snow-hill by Payne and another constable, who apprehended him, and had, in all probability, seen him take up the watch. I reflected, (said he,) that, how innocently soever I might have obtained the article in question, yet it might cause some censure ; and no one would wonder, considering the unhappy predicament I stood in,* that I should conceal it as much as possible. The jury having pronounced the prisoner guilty, he addressed the Court, earnestly supplicating that he might be permitted to enter into his Majesty's service, and promising to discharge his trust with fidelity and attention ; or, if he could not be indulged in that request, he wished that his sentence might be banishment for life from his Majesty's dominions.

The Court informed him that, by an application to the throne, he might obtain a mitigation of his sentence, if his case was attended by such circumstances of extenuation as would justify him in humbly petitioning to be considered as an object of the royal favour.

He requested that the money and bank-note might be returned. Hereupon the Court observed, that, in consequence of his conviction, the property found on him when he was apprehended became vested in the hands of the sheriffs of the city of London, who had discretionary power either to comply with or reject his request.

He was again sentenced to labour on the Thames, for the space of five years, on Tuesday the 5th of April, 1778. About the middle of this year he was accordingly removed to the hulks at Woolwich, where having attracted the

* Alluding to his former conviction.

notice of a gentleman, who exerted his influence in his favour, he again procured his release, on condition of his leaving England : to this Barrington gladly consented, and was generously supplied with money by this gentleman.

He now went to Dublin, where he was shortly apprehended for picking the pocket of an Irish nobleman of his gold watch and money, at the theatre, but was acquitted for want of evidence.

Here, however, was his chief display of elocution ; for, having received a serious admonition from the judge, he addressed the Court with considerable animation, and enlarged with great ingenuity upon what he termed the force of prejudice, insinuating that calumny had followed him from England to Ireland.

On his acquittal, however, he deemed it most prudent to leave Dublin ; he therefore visited Edinburgh, where being suspected, he was obliged to decamp. He now returned to London, and, braving danger, frequented the theatres, opera-house, Pantheon, &c. but was at length taken into custody. Having been acquitted, for want of evidence of the charge brought against him, he was unexpectedly detained for having returned to England in violation of the condition on which his Majesty was pleased to grant him a remission of his punishment, and was accordingly confined in Newgate during the remainder of the time that he was originally to have served on the river Thames.

On the expiration of his captivity he returned to his former practices, but with greater caution.

Barrington was detected, in St. Paul's Cathedral, picking the pocket of Mrs. Montague of two guineas and seven shillings : he was taken to the Crown, in St. Paul's Church-yard ; where, asking leave of the constable that had him in custody to go into the yard, he got over the wall into Paternoster-row, and effected an escape.

Soon afterwards he got into company with John Brown, Esq. of Brandford, and, while he was in conversation with him, picked his pocket of forty guineas, a gold watch, and seals : with this booty he made shift to live till he was apprehended for robbing Elizabeth Ironmonger.

He was at length apprehended for picking the pocket of
Mr.

Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury-lane playhouse, but effected his escape from the constable; and while the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavouring to take him, he evaded detection by travelling in various disguises and characters through the northern counties of the kingdom: he visited the great towns as a quack doctor, clergyman, rider, &c. but was at last apprehended in Newcastle upon Tyne, and removed to London by a writ of Habeas Corpus.

He now employed counsel, and had the outlawry against him reversed. He was then tried for robbing Mr. Le Mesurier, and acquitted for the want of a material witness. Even this narrow escape did not intimidate this daring character: he had the effrontery to proceed from prison once more to his native country, Ireland. He soon, however, found Dublin by no means so rich a harvest as London, but he did not quit the former until the officers of justice were again at his heels.

It is now high time to come to the crime for which he was transported; but in so doing we must, for want of room, pass over many nimble tricks and hair-breadth escapes of this very prince of pickpockets.

He was at length indicted for picking the pocket of Henry Hare Townsend, Esq. of a gold watch. The fact was fully proved; yet in order to support our first observations on the superior abilities of this man, and which he equally displayed on all his different trials, we give the outline of his speech in his defence:

“ May it please your Lordship, and you Gentlemen of the Jury,

“ To favour me with your attention for a little time. The situation of every person who has the misfortune to stand here is extremely distressing and awkward; mine is so in a peculiar degree: if I am totally silent, it may be considered perhaps as a proof of guilt; and if I presume to offer those arguments which present themselves to my mind, in my defence, they may not, perhaps, be favoured with that attention which they might deserve; yet I by no means distrust the candour and benevolence of the jury,
and

and therefore I beg leave to proceed to state the circumstances of the case as they occur to me, not doubting but they will meet with some degree of credit, notwithstanding the various reports to my prejudice.

“It appears that Mr. Townsend, being at the races at Barnet, was robbed of his watch; and that he turned to me, saying, your name is Barrington, and you have taken my watch. I told him he was right as to my name, but he accused me unjustly: however, I would go any where with him. I was removed from thence to a stand, from whence the races were viewed; it consisted of two booths, and they were separated from each other by only a railing, elbow high: and it is a great misfortune to me, Gentlemen of the Jury, that you were not able to observe the situation of those booths; for, if you had, you would have found it nearly impossible that some circumstances which have come from the witnesses could be true. I was close to the railing that separated the two booths, and some person said, ‘Here is a watch.’ This watch Mr. Townsend claimed, and said it was his. I was removed from thence to the Angel at Edmonton, where the examination took place, and I am very sorry to be under the necessity of observing that a very material difference has taken place in the depositions delivered that day before the magistrate in various respects. A witness, the coachman, positively declared that he did not see this watch in my hand, that he did not see me take it from my pocket, that he did not see it drop from the person, but that he saw it on the ground, and he might have gone so far as to say he saw it fall. I took the liberty of asking him whether he had seen this watch in my hand, or observed it falling from me. He declared he did not. I then asked him whether he could take upon himself to swear, from the situation he stood in at the adjoining booth, that this watch might not have dropped from some other person. He declared he could not observe any such thing.—Gentlemen, with respect to the evidence of Kendrick, he made the same declaration then. Mr. Townsend has brought me here, under the charge of having committed felony: he has told you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he lost a watch out of his pocket, and that pocket is a waistcoat pocket;

pocket ; that he was in a very extraordinary situation ; that he was on the Race-ground, where certainly the greatest decorum is not always observed ; and he was also in a situation which exposed him more to the pressure he complained of than any other person ; for, instead of his horse being in the possession of his jockey or groom, he attended it himself ; and I must beg leave to observe, Gentlemen of the Jury, that it is a custom, when people bet money at races, to wish to see the horse immediately after the heat is over ; so that the pressure which Mr. Townsend had, or what he thought he had from me, could not appear very extraordinary : and I am under the necessity of saying his fancy has rather been improved on the occasion. With respect, Gentlemen, to the last witness that has appeared, I will say nothing on the occasion ; that will rest entirely with you. It is a circumstance, however, of a most extraordinary nature, that this person should never come forward till the present moment ; and surely the contradictions and strange accounts she has given of herself are not such as to entitle her to any credit, particularly in a case where the life or liberty of another is at stake. Where much pains have been taken to defame, some efforts may be surely allowed to abate that defamation. Gentlemen, that it has been the hard lot of some unhappy persons to have been convicted of crimes they did not really commit, less through evidence than ill-natured report, is unquestionably certain ; and doubtless there are many respectable persons in Court fully convinced of the truth of this observation. Such times, it is to be hoped, are past ; I dread not such a conviction in my own person ; I am well convinced of the noble nature of a British Court of Justice, the dignified and benign principles of its judges, and the liberal and candid spirit of its jurors.

“ Gentlemen, life is the gift of God, and liberty its greatest blessing : the power of disposing of both, or either, is the greatest man can enjoy. It is also advantageous that, great as that power is, it cannot be better placed than in the hands of an English jury ; for they will not exercise it like tyrants, who glory in blood, but like generous and brave men, who delight to spare rather than to destroy ; and who, not forgetting they are men themselves,
lean,

lean, when they can, to the side of compassion. It may be thought, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I am applying to your passions, and, if I had the power to do it, I would not fail to employ it : the passions animate the heart ; to the passions we are indebted for the noblest actions ; and to the passions we owe our dearest and finest feelings : and, when the mighty power you now possess is considered, whatever leads to a cautious and tender discharge of it must be thought of great consequence. As long as the passions conduct us on the side of benevolence, they are our best, our safest, and our most friendly guides.

“ Gentlemen of the Jury, Mr. Townsend has deposed that he lost his watch, but how, I trust, is by no means clear. I hope, Gentlemen, you will consider the almost total impossibility, that, having had the watch in my possession for so long a time, time sufficient to have concealed it in a variety of places or to have conveyed it to town, it should still be in my possession. You have heard from Mr. Townsend that there was an interval of at least half an hour between the time of losing the watch and my being taken into custody : there is something, Gentlemen, impossible in the circumstance ; and, on the other hand, it has sometimes happened, that remorse, a generous remorse, has struck the minds of persons in such a manner, as to have induced them to surrender themselves into the hands of justice, rather than an innocent person should suffer. It is not, therefore, I suppose, improbable, that if Mr. Townsend lost his watch by an act of felony, the person who had the watch in his possession, feeling for the situation of an unhappy man, might be induced to place that watch on the ground. But it is by no means certain how Mr. Townsend lost his watch, whether by an act of felony, or whether, by accident, it might have fallen into the hands of some other person, and that person, feeling for my unhappy situation, might have been induced to restore it.

“ I humbly hope that the circumstances of the case are such as may induce a scrupulous jury to make a favourable decision ; and I am very well convinced that you will not be led by any other circumstances than those of the
present

present case ; either from reports or former misfortunes, or by the fear of my falling into similar ones. I am now just thirty-two years of age (shall be so next month) ; it is nearly half the life of man ; it is not worth while being impatient to provide for the other half, so far as to do any thing unworthy.

“ Gentlemen, in the course of my life I have suffered much distress, I have felt something of the vicissitudes of fortune, and now, from observation, I am convinced, upon the whole, there is no joy but what arises from the practice of virtue, and consists in the felicity of a tranquil mind and a benevolent heart ; sources of consolation which the most prosperous circumstances do not always furnish, and which may be felt under the most indigent.

“ It will be my study, Gentlemen, to possess them ; nor will the heaviest affliction of poverty, pain, or disgrace, cause me to part with resolutions founded on the deepest reflection, and which will end but with life ; I will perish on the pavement before I will deviate from them. For my own part, whatever your verdict may be, I trust I shall be enabled to meet it with firmness of mind ; he indeed has little to fear from death whose fame is tarnished, and who has endured the ceaseless abuse of unfeeling minds. When Heaven accepts contrition, it receives into favour whom it pardons : but man, more cruel than his Maker, pursues his offending brother with unrelenting severity, and marks a deviation from rectitude with a never-dying infamy, and with unceasing suspicion and reproach, which seem to exclude him from the pale of virtue.

“ Gentlemen of the Jury, the thought of death may appal the rich and prosperous ; but, on the other hand, the unfortunate cannot have much to fear from it ; yet the tenderness of nature cannot be quite subdued by the utmost degree of human resolution, and I cannot be insensible to the woes which must be felt by an affectionate companion and an infant offspring ; and there is, besides, a principle in human nature, stronger even than the fear of death, and which can hardly fail to operate some time or other in life ; I mean the desire of good fame.

“ Under that laudable influence, Gentlemen, if I am acquitted, I will quickly retire to some distant land,

where my name and misfortunes will be alike unknown, where harmless manners may shield me from the imputation of guilt, and where prejudice will not be liable to misrepresentation: and I do now assure you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I feel a cheering hope, even at this awful moment, that the rest of my life will be so conducted, as to make me as much an object of esteem and applause as I am now the unhappy object of censure and suspicion."

The jury, however, instantly found him guilty.

On Wednesday, September, 22, 1798, George Barrington was set to the bar.

Mr. Recorder.—George Barrington, the sentence of the Court upon you is, that you be transported, for the term of seven years, to parts beyond the seas, to such place as his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, shall think fit to declare and appoint.

To which Barrington replied:

" My Lord,

" I had a few words to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon me; I had much to say, though I shall say but little on this occasion. Notwithstanding I have the best opinion of your Lordship's candour, and have no wish or pleasure in casting a reflection on any person whatever; yet I cannot help observing that it is the strange lot of some persons through life, that with the best wishes, the best endeavours, and the best intentions, they are not able to escape the envenomed tooth of calumny: whatever they say or do is so twisted and perverted from the reality, that they will meet with censures and misfortunes, where perhaps they were entitled to success and praise. The world, my Lord, has given me credit for much more abilities than I am conscious of possessing; but, the world should also consider that the greatest abilities may be so obstructed by the mercenary nature of some unfeeling minds, as to render them entirely useless to the possessor. Where was the generous and powerful man that would come forward and say, 'You have some abilities which might be of service to yourself and to others,

others, but you have much to struggle with : I feel for your situation, and will place you in a condition to try the sincerity of your intentions ; and, as long as you act with diligence and fidelity, you shall not want for countenance and protection ?' But, my Lord, the die is cast ! I am prepared to meet the sentence of the Court with respectful resignation, and the painful lot assigned me, I hope, with becoming resolution."—Mr. Barrington bowed and retired.

Thus have we a sad proof of the prostitution of abilities, which, well applied, would have done honour to the senate, the bar, or the pulpit ; his words flowing in harmonious sentences, conveyed in tone, expression, and gesture, that touched every heart with pity at beholding the finest fabric of man thus wasting in corruption.

Barrington, as he had promised in his last speech, underwent his sentence with submission. His good conduct on his long passage to Botany-bay had gained the friendship and confidence of his officers. He was the means of subduing a mutiny on board, by which he most likely saved many of his fellow-creatures from being massacred.

On his arrival at Port Jackson he was appointed superintendent of convicts at Paramatta, in which charge he behaved so as to make much compensation for his former life.

SAMUEL BURR,

CONVICTED OF A FORGERY IN THE YEAR 1787.

THOUGH this is a very extraordinary case, yet we have met with similar instances of men being so very weary of life, as to commit a crime, in order that their lives might be taken by the law, and thereby prevent them from becoming their own murderers. Such an instance was the following :

On the fourth of September, 1760, when North America entirely belonged to our country, a Mr. Robert

Scull, with several gentlemen, were playing at billiards in Philadelphia; when Captain Bruluman, late of the Royal American regiment, came into the room, and, without the smallest provocation, levelled a loaded gun, which he had brought with him, and shot Mr. Scull through the body, just after he had struck his ball, for which murder he was tried and executed.

This desperate man had been brought up a silversmith, which business he left to enter the army, where he was an officer in the Royal American regiment, but was broke on being detected in counterfeiting or uttering base money.

He then returned to Philadelphia, and growing insupportable to himself, and yet unwilling to put an end to his own life, he determined upon the commission of some illegal crime, for which he would certainly be hanged by the law.

Having formed this design, he loaded his gun with a brace of balls, and asked his landlord to go a shooting with him, intending to murder him before his return; but the landlord, being fortunately particularly engaged at home, escaped the danger.

He then went out alone, and on the way met a man whom he was about to kill; but, recollecting that there were no witnesses to prove him guilty, he suffered the man to pass.

He then went to a tavern, where he drank some liquor, and, hearing people playing at billiards in a room above that in which he sat, he went up stairs, and entered into conversation with the players, in apparent good humour. In a little time he called the landlord, and desired him to hang up the gun.

Mr. Scull having struck his antagonist's ball in one of the pockets, Bruluman said to him, "Sir, you are a good marksman; now I'll shew you a fine stroke." He immediately took down his gun, levelled it, deliberately took aim at Mr. Scull (who imagined him in jest), and shot both the balls through his body.

He then went up to the dying man, who was still sensible, and said to him, "Sir, I have no malice or ill will against you; I never saw you before; but I was determined

mined to kill somebody, that I might be hanged; and you happen to be the man, and I am very sorry for your misfortune.”

Mr. Scull had just time left in this world to send for his friends and make his will. He forgave his murderer, and, if it could be done, desired he might be pardoned. Bruluman died on the gallows, exulting in his fate.

The same volume from which we make the above extract contains another of the like nature, and, if possible, more extraordinary. We shall therefore, before we give the particulars of Samuel Burr, add this fatal precedent for the commission of the deed by which he sought his own death.

A youth of the name of David Williams, when about fifteen years of age, was one day, against his wish, detained from school by his father-in-law, who greatly wanted his assistance on the farm. While thus employed, a log rolled on one of his legs, which injured it to such a degree, that it became nearly useless; and by another accident he soon after hurt the other limb, so that he was rendered almost a cripple before he had attained the years of manhood.

At these misfortunes he continually repined; blamed his step-father for keeping him that day from school, whereby he received his first injury; and, mortified at his appearance among his comrades, some of whom, he said, ridiculed him, he became weary of the world, and determined to end his misfortunes with his life.

For this end suicide and murder presented themselves. The first he thought the most eligible; but then it brought to his mind the horrifying conviction, that, if he appeared, by his own violence, before God, he should not be pardoned; and therefore he was induced to abandon that mode for the latter, which, he thought, would afford him a better excuse to the Almighty: besides, death from any other hands than his own he considered most desirable.

He familiarized himself to this act of desperation by continually thinking of it; so that in time it became a pleasing subject of contemplation.

The consideration of the grief which it must occasion his mother at times almost unbent his resolution; but then

then the idea of its proving a sweet revenge on his father-in-law bore down every other consideration.

Thus determined, the next step of this unhappy young man was, to select a proper subject on whom the deed should be committed. A grown person or a child was the question. The former, he concluded, must be under sin and guilt: therefore, by sudden death, and thus unprepared, his damnation might be chargeable to him, and he be doubly guilty; the latter being innocent, he might avoid that charge, and therefore resolved upon murdering some child.

Now, the particular object for this horrid purpose was the next thought; but he confessed that, though he thought of it more than six months, yet none occurred until within five minutes of his committing his long-determined and bloody deed.

All the morning of the fatal day, he said that he felt an unaccountable and far stronger desire to commit murder than before: to use his own words, "Something like hankering after fruit."

At this unfortunate moment he chanced to spy a little boy, named Ira, the son of Mr. Lane, a neighbour, gathering plums, and, finding the parents absent, determined on seizing the opportunity and subject. He instantly seized a gun, fired at, and slightly wounded the child in the side of the abdomen. Finding his victim yet alive, he limped to him, led him to the house, placed him upon a bed, and took a station at the door.

Poor devoted little Ira had strength left to get from the bed, in order to see "whether his father was coming to cure him." Williams answered, that his father would come by-and-by; and bid him go to bed again, and lie still. Again the murderer listened for the dying groan of the boy; but, finding his work incomplete, (horrid to relate!) he took an axe, went to the bed, looked upon the innocent child, and, while it held up its little hands for help, the monster struck it on the head, and by repeated and accursed blows chopped it in pieces.

The wretched murderer was a youth of extraordinary mental talents for his years, until the fatal gloom overspread him.

After

After the horrid deed was done he spoke of it with calmness, observing that, though he had often considered the grief he should bring on his own mother, it never occurred to him the distraction it must cause her who bore the murdered child.

His whole intent was to get himself hanged. He supposed that the perpetration of the murder, under so many palliating circumstances, would excite the pity and forgiveness of the Almighty.

He farther admitted, in the account he gave of himself, that the example of a pious mother and an affectionate and good brother had no influence over his determined purpose; that he had an evil temper, soured ever since his father-in-law took him that unhappy day from school; but that he had never committed a bad crime before. He was, in the eye of the law, considered a lunatic, and treated as such.

The immediate subject of the present inquiry, Samuel Burr, was a young man of fair character, but who laboured under so great a depression of mind, as to render him weary of life. He did not, however, seek death at the hands of the law, by shedding the blood of his fellow-creature: he pursued a still more effectual plan, as he conceived, knowing that though the crime of murder, under particular circumstances, has found mercy, forgery is unpardonable. Yet in this he did not succeed, for, when his determination to die was known, the executive power would have him live, and in pursuance, from time to time, his execution was respited.

That such was his fixed determination to die will be proved by his address to the Bench on receiving sentence; and that he was possessed of superior abilities will be seen by the style of his speech.

Having been convicted of forgery, when the Recorder of London called him by name, in the usual manner, to know what he had to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he thus replied:

“ My Lord,

“ I am too sensible of the crime I have committed, and
for

for which I justly deserve to suffer, not to know that my life I have forfeited, and wish to resign it into the hands of Him who gave it. To give my reasons for this would only satisfy an idle curiosity ; no one can feel a more sensible heartfelt satisfaction in the hopes of shortly passing into eternity, wherein, I trust, I shall meet with great felicity. I have no desire to live ; and as the jury and Court at my trial thought proper to recommend me to mercy, if his Majesty should, in consequence thereof, grant me a respite, I here vow, in the face of Heaven, that I will put an end to my own existence as soon as I can. It is death that I wish for, because nothing but death can extricate me from the troubles which my follies have involved me in."

We did not find any note of his being executed, therefore conclude that, in pity to his mental derangement, he finally received a pardon.

The last time he is named was in these words : " Samuel Burr, the unhappy youth, who, under a depression of mind, abhorring the guilt of suicide, committed a forgery in order to suffer death by the law, was respited."

*MICHAEL WALKER, RICHARD PAYNE, AND
ROBERT COX,*

EXECUTED OPPOSITE SMART'S BUILDINGS, HOLBORN, LONDON, DECEMBER
18, 1786, FOR MURDER.

" Train up a child in the way that he should go,
" And when he is old he will not depart from it."

It was observed, in a paragraph in a periodical publication of the day on which this execution took place, " that no villians ever went to the gallows less pitied." They were a part of a young, but desperate, gang of street-robbers ; Cox was not quite fifteen years of age when he suffered.

On

On the 17th of November, 1786, Mr. Robinson, the unfortunate man, who fell a victim to inhumanity, was walking with his friend, Mr. Hunt, a painter, through Smart's Buildings, Holborn, when the latter, feeling something at his pocket, seized a man's hand: yet the villain was dexterous enough to convey away what he had stolen to an accomplice, whom Mr. Hunt instantly collared, and a general scuffle ensued.

There were more of the gang than those above named opposed to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hunt, who maintained the unequal combat until other people came up, when the thieves ran off.

Mr. Robinson was dreadfully wounded. He was cut across the eyes and nose with a knife, and had several desperate stabs in the body, and otherwise much maimed. While he endured these wounds, the villains called to each other, "Damn the rascal, cut his heart out!" and they were so intent upon this, that one of the buttons on his breast was cut through, and his coat ripped more than eighteen inches in length.

Mr. Hunt was also wounded, though not in a degree to cause danger of his life; but Mr. Robinson was carried home in a mangled situation, with little hopes of his recovery.

In a short time the malefactors above named were apprehended, and sworn to by both the sufferers; and Mr. Robinson soon after died of his wounds.

In cases of murder, the law follows with considerable expedition, allowing but a day's preparation for eternity after sentence.—He who sheds the blood of his fellow-creature unto death is certainly no longer fit for a station among men.

They were convicted, to the great satisfaction of every auditor, and, unpitied, suffered the sentence of the law. For this purpose a temporary gibbet was erected opposite Smart's Buildings.

Walker was greatly affected at his fate, and held a book in his hand. Payne appeared in a state of stupidity. Cox, the boy, cried bitterly: when he came within sight of the gallows he screamed dreadfully, and was in a state of distraction when turned off.

Though so very young, he had long been hardened in iniquity, so that even his yet tender years excited not the tear of pity, so full was the black catalogue of the offences of them all.

Walker and Payne were but a very few years older than Cox, having barely arrived at manhood.

WILLIAM GRANT,

(*A Negro,*)

IN WHOSE CONVICTION WE SHALL INTRODUCE A SKETCH OF

The PAWNBROKER and the JEW.

ALREADY are our readers in possession of the mode of deception and the petty depredations of the lower tribes of Israel in London.

As Judaism is marked on every Hebrew visage, so are their avocations alike in every quarter of the globe. The meaner sort are pedlars in trinkets, purchasers of second-hand articles, and receivers of whatever may be brought to them. They are, in fact, for their sins and cruelties to the blessed Jesus, a wandering unlicensed race upon the earth.

But in London we have a set of privileged receivers of goods, and, acting under the law, they can consequently do nothing, save what is lawful; yet we can safely add our opinion, that it would be more for the general weal was the act of parliament which they have obtained abrogated.

This fraternity are that proud, insolent, and unfeeling set of men, ycleped "Pawnbrokers." It is proverbial, that "Had we no receivers, we should have no thieves:" it is equally true, that "had we no pawnbrokers we should have less distress."

These men, under no chartered restrictions as a trade so late as thirty years ago, conceiving themselves out of the statutes against usury, demanded what rate of interest they pleased upon pledges, generally worth double the amount
for

for which they were pawned. In those times every man who could muster cash could open a shop for receiving pledges; and many, very many, thousands of poor families, owe their ruin to these pawntakers.

About the date already mentioned a young man of ancient family, to supply his extravagance, had pledged a quantity of plate and other articles with Parker, then of Princes-street, Haymarket, but since pawnbroker to the notorious Mrs. Clarke, while under royal protection.

The gay young gentleman, again in funds, wished to redeem the ornaments of his sideboard, which certainly had lain in Parker's strong room several months; but applying for that purpose, the demand of Mr. Por (we are sure Parker will pardon our familiarity, because he knows we write from record) was so enormous, that it alarmed the simple owner.

It happened that the attorney for the young man (since succeeding to his title) was Mr. William J'Anson, of Bedford-row, than whom a man of greater ability never practised in the courts of Westminster.

To this gentleman was the case stated, who, in due terms of law, brought Parker, Priestman, and other pawnbrokers, into Westminster-Hall, where he recovered against them the penalty of the statute of Elizabeth, against "directly, or indirectly," taking more than lawful interest for money lent.

The fraternity of usurious money-lenders were in alarm. They who had for years hoarded contrary to law, and on the miseries of mankind, were compelled, wherever an action was brought, (and the minor attornies soon followed the track of J'Anson,) to disgorge their ill-gotten pelf.

Thus defeated, the body of pawnmen consulted together, and procured an act of parliament for the regulation of their dealings, which limits their interest to twenty per cent. and orders them, in case the pledges are not redeemed within a year, to sell them by public auction, and return the surplus to the persons who pawned the same.

This part of the act is shamefully evaded. They give a colour to a sale, it is true, but we never yet heard of a single miserable individual who benefitted by it.

Thus the grievance advances in this unfeeling traffic:

the number of pawnbrokers increases rapidly; and the evil will continue unless we find another J'Anson to keep them within the strict letter of the law.

William Grant was a native of the coast of Africa, a region of black men but little known to Europeans. A few of this nation (and we could wish the British dominions purged of them) find their way among us.

This malefactor (like most of his colour when taken from their burning clime) was a thief. He was convicted of robbing his master, Captain Ball, of a ruby ring, which cost ninety guineas. The thief sold it (for so says the account) to one of these human sharks, a pawnbroker, for four guineas; and he parted with it to a Jew for six! Modest, but ignorant, pawnbroker! The son of Israel, somewhat more cunning in his dealings, sold it to a jeweller for fifteen; and thus we see the progress of this kind of iniquity in the degradation of man—the negro, the pawnbroker, the Jew, and the jeweller. But, of all these, the jeweller was the greatest knave; for he best knew the value of the precious stone, and it was surely worth even four times the purchase of the Jew.

It is a vulgar adage, that “Tricking is fair in love and war;” but we hold it despicable in trade.

The ruby was traced to the dealer in stones: he was obliged to yield it up; and Black Bill was sentenced to transportation at the Old Bailey, on the 22d of September, 1787.

THOMAS DENTON and JOHN JONES,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JULY 1, 1789, FOR PETTY TREASON.

IN the character of Denton we find an uncommon mechanical genius, an acquirement which, if ill applied, often brings its possessor to an untimely fate. Had Ryland, the engraver, not been one of the first artists, he never, probably, would have been hanged. Many other instances have been adduced of ingenuity being subject to a base and wicked propensity.

Thomas

Thomas Denton was born in the north part of Yorkshire, of poor but honest parents, who brought up a numerous offspring without a blemish in their character, save that incurred by the malefactor whose case is before us. Their son Thomas was bound apprentice to a tinman, and served his time with much credit to himself and profit to his master.

His genius, it appears, expanded beyond the making of kettles, for he evinced a taste for literature. He opened a bookseller's shop in the city of York, where he particularly attended to works on mechanism; and, with a superficial store of such arts, he gave up his few shelves of books, and, on their sale, went an adventurer to the great mart of genius, London.

He had formed no settled plan of life, and determined to employ some days in viewing minutely the great metropolis.

Passing through the parish of St. James's, his attention was arrested by some foreigners exhibiting a speaking figure. He immediately paid his admission, and took a very correct examination of the automaton. Returning to his lodgings, he fancied that he could construct a similar machine equal to that of the ingenious foreigner, and he determined without further delay to set about this work.

Difficulties, however, insurmountable to a man without genius and perseverance, presented themselves. An unknown individual as he was, he had to furnish himself, in a strange place, with a workshop, tools, and materials. Yet man's industry, which, he had read, had levelled mountains, diverted the course of large rivers, and carried navigation into the bowels of the earth, would hardly stop at forming the figure of a pigmy. To set to work took time, labour, and money; but, once seated thereat, his ingenuity soon made rapid progress, and, with but one more hired view of the original, he completed a far superior figure to that of the vaunting German.

His work having been deemed the most complete, he wisely determined against all opposition in London, where the milk of such a raree-show had already been skimmed, and accordingly set off with it into the country. There he collected vast sums of money at each city which he pitched

pitched upon for the exhibition of his famous speaking figure.

His active mind, it seems, was still discontented. He looked upon his first essay on mechanism as far inferior to his expanded ideas ; and he determined upon returning to London, in order to undertake a superior work. He soon found a purchaser for the speaking figure (a printer in the city of London, who for it melted down his types), and set about a writing automaton. This, too, he finished with most exquisite and ingenious workmanship.

The artificial penman delighted him no longer than the speaker ; and he next applied himself to chymistry. In pursuit of this science he met with Pinetti's Book of Deceptions, which he translated (having previously to learn the language in which it was written), and added to it various notes and observations.

He also made himself master of an improvement in the art of plating coach-harnesses.

Conceiving this profitable branch of business, united to that of a bookseller, would make his fortune, he, for some time, carried on both in Holborn. Here his good fortune, by his own indiscretion, failed him. The art, thus self-acquired, of plating metal, led him into company with others professing that branch of business, and among them was a coiner of base shillings.

Here too, as with the Germans, he fancied he could far excel in this criminal proceeding ; and the powers that assisted him to make several mathematical instruments, as pentagraphs, &c. enabled him to imitate the current coin of the kingdom in a manner that deceived the best judges ; and which, upon his trial at the Old Bailey for that offence, kept the Court in doubt during seven hours : nor could he be convicted of coining ; but he was found guilty of having implements for coining in his possession, which alone proved fatal to him.

He was condemned to die ; and we are reluctant in adding to the character of such a man of genius as Thomas Denton that his behaviour after condemnation was impious in the extreme. To sum up the whole—he died a professed infidel ! a doctrine which many men of superior endowments had unfortunately imbibed before him.

A few

A few minutes before he was brought out of his cell for execution he requested pen, ink, and paper; and, in the most composed manner, sat down and wrote the following letter :

“ Dear Father and Mother,

“ When you receive this I shall be gone to that country from whence no traveller returns. Don't cast any reflections on my wife—the best of mothers, and the best of women; and, if ever a woman went to heaven, she will. If I had taken her advice, I should not have been in this situation. God bless my poor Dick ! (his son.) The bell is tolling. Adieu !

“ T. DENTON.”

Of John Jones we find no particular account. He may be considered as the *scape-goat* of Denton. He had not only joined him in coining, but even imbibed his horrid principles of atheism.

Along with them were executed John Ward, for burglary; and George Green, for robbing Ann Saunders on the highway.

These men exhibited a happy contrast to Denton and Jones—they died penitent.

SAMUEL HINCHCLIFFE,

CONVICTED AT THE WESTMINSTER SESSIONS IN JANUARY, 1790, IMPRISONED, AND PUBLICLY WHIPPED, FOR EXTORTION.

AN act of parliament was passed, a short time subsequent to the conviction of this man, to prevent the extortion of carriers and porters bringing packages for coach, waggon, &c. to London.

The imposition practised under this pretence had arrived to such a pitch, that rascals, pretending to be porters to inns, would often put a few stones or brickbats into hand-baskets, and other packages, and cheat the unsuspecting,

cious, to whom they had directed them, of a few shillings, as carriage and portorage.

Other villains, actually porters to inns, would charge carriage, though already paid in the country, as will be found in the present case.

Samuel Hinchcliffe having thus imposed upon Daniel Delaney, Esq. that gentleman commenced a prosecution against him, on which he was tried at the Westminster sessions, for fraudulently obtaining from — Cowley, his servant, two shillings, under pretence of its being for the carriage of a parcel from Norwich, the prisoner well knowing that the carriage had been before paid.

Cowley deposed that the prisoner brought to his master's house a parcel directed to Daniel Delaney, Esq. He told the witness he had brought it from the White Horse Inn, Fetter-lane, and demanded two shillings for the carriage, and one shilling for the portorage. The witness observed to him that the carriage ought to have been paid, and, looking at the direction, he discovered that part of it had been torn off, and "three shillings" wrote over it."

This created a suspicion, and he several times advised the prisoner not to take the two shillings for the carriage, as he was persuaded it was paid. The prisoner, however, persisted in his charge, and took three shillings.

The next day the witness was sent by his master to the White Horse, and found that the parcel was not brought from that inn. He then went to the Swan, in Lad-lane, to which inn he found that the parcel had come by the Norwich coach, and that the carriage had been paid in the country.

The next witness called was a clerk at the Swan, who deposed that the prisoner was an assistant porter to that house, employed to deliver parcels. Upon examining the way-book, he found the carriage of the parcel had been paid, and that the prisoner had only accounted for one shilling for the portorage.

The jury immediately found him guilty.

Mr. Mainwaring, the chairman, observed that this was a case of great importance to the public, who were daily suffering under such impositions. As it was very difficult

to detect this kind of fraud, it was necessary to make an example of those offenders against whom the charge was proved.

He farther added, that Mr. Delaney, by instituting this prosecution, merited the thanks of the public; and then sentenced the prisoner to three months' imprisonment, and to be publicly whipped from the Admiralty to Charing-cross, and from thence to Bridge-street, Parliament-street; which punishment was inflicted, to the great satisfaction of the spectators.

JEREMIAH READING,

(The Scape-goat of Swindlers,)

CONVICTED OF FORGERY AT THE OLD BAILEY, THE JUDGMENT ARRESTED,
AND THE CONDEMNED PARDONED.

(A very intricate Case.)

THE forgery for which this man was tried was supposed to have been committed by two swindlers, John King, and one White.

There was much hard swearing to bolster up a respectability to the character of the former; but the learned Judge seemed to be of opinion that the prisoner was, to use his own words, "a scape-goat in their hands."

Jeremiah Reading was tried for forging the name of John King, as an acceptance to a bill of exchange for 80l. with intent to defraud William Dolben and Richard Brown, linen-draper in Bishopsgate-street.

William Dolben, being sworn, deposed that in the month of February, 1792, the prisoner, who had been for a considerable time indebted to them in 9l. applied to him, saying he had now the means of discharging the arrears, having received a note, which he wished to have discounted. For that night he wished to receive only 10l. which he had immediate occasion for. He described White, the drawer of the bill, to be a reputable merchant in Bristol; and King, the acceptor, a man of opulence,

who resided in a large house in Berkeley-street, Portman-square, and kept a carriage, livery-servants, &c.

The witness remarked, that the acceptance in the bill appeared in the place where indorsements are usually made. To this the prisoner replied, that when he took the bill he made the same observation; but that Mr. King assured him he always accepted his bills in that way, and that it should be regularly honoured when it became due. He then gave him 20*l.* for which he took his receipt.

The prisoner not returning for the remainder of the money excited suspicion, and induced the witness to make inquiry after the drawer and acceptor. The result was, that White had once resided in Bristol, but had disappeared for two years; but, as to King, no such person was to be found in Berkeley-street. The witness, having occasion to pay a visit at the King's Bench, found Reading a prisoner there, and brought him on his trial.

A servant in the prosecutor's house corroborated this testimony; and the collector of the taxes said that no person of the name of King was a yearly housekeeper in Berkeley-street; otherwise he must have known him.

This was the evidence for the prosecution.

In defence, one Clark appeared, who swore that he lived as clerk in the house of White, in Bristol, and recollected having copied the note in question, and its being forwarded to King in Berkeley-street. The witness underwent an examination of two hours, in which he was required to give an account of himself. This he did in a very extraordinary way, beginning at the time when he was only three years old; but it was found impossible to extract from him the manner in which he had employed himself for the last eighteen months.

Allen, a hair-dresser, deposed that he lived near Soho-square, in good business; and that, in the year 1792, he dressed a Mr. King, in Berkeley-street, Portman-square. He recollected that, about the end of February, the prisoner came to Mr. King, while he was dressing him, and presented a bill, which he accepted. He added, that all that conversation took place relative to the extraordinary mode of indorsement, &c. which was related by the prisoner when passing the bill upon Dolben. He also stated
a circum-

a circumstance of King's receiving a letter addressed to him under the name of Nugent.

Several witnesses gave the prisoner a good character, amongst whom was a Miss Davies, whose mother's house in Berkeley-street he frequented for three years.

Mr. Justice Grose summed up this very intricate evidence in a very able and circumstantial manner. He commented upon all the points: and, when he came to that which regarded King's passing by the name of Nugent,

Miss Davies requested the liberty of interrupting him. She said that the mention of the name of Nugent called a circumstance to her remembrance, which, as it might affect the case before the Court, she thought it her duty to state, though she could not have done so in her direct evidence, the whole having been suggested by the testimony of another witness. She then related that a person of the name of Nugent had taken lodgings at her mother's, and refused to give any reference for character, saying there was no occasion for it, as he was a regular man, and would pay weekly. He afterwards absconded in the night; and, on sweeping the room one morning, she found a pawnbroker's duplicate of an article pledged in the name of John King. Having never seen a pawnbroker's ticket before, she shewed it to a gentleman, and their mutual curiosity led them to pay a visit to the pawnbroker. The latter told them that he had directions to stop any person who should apply with the ticket, and that the instruction was given by the person who deposited the pledge. On the affair being explained, the pawnbroker gave a description of the man, which perfectly corresponded with the person of Nugent.

She was desired to produce the ticket; but said that, having no idea that such a circumstance would apply in evidence to this case, she had not brought it with her, as she otherwise would have done.

The learned Judge, after a short hesitation, proceeded to his charge. He remarked that what they had last heard went in a great measure to confirm the evidence of Allen. If the jury should be led to attribute the whole to a foul and fraudulent conspiracy of White and King as an expedient for raising money, and that the prisoner was

only a scape-goat in their hands, it was not a forgery, as charged in the indictment, and they must of course acquit him. They were not to convict upon doubt, inference, probability, or conjecture. The question to be considered was, whether the prisoner uttered this instrument, knowing it to be forged? If they believed the evidence of Allen and Clark, corroborated by that of Davies, the charge was fully rebutted; if not, the other evidence was sufficient to convict him.

The jury, after retiring for a considerable time, returned with a verdict, finding the prisoner, on the second count of the indictment—"Guilty of uttering the bill, knowing it to be forged."—Death.

The learned Judge, however, thought proper to reserve the case for the opinion of the Judges; and accordingly, at the Sessions-House in the Old Bailey, 1794, the Judges were of opinion, that, as the indictment stated the bill to be directed to John King, by the name and description of John King, and as there was no such person to be found as John King, their description was erroneous, and repugnant to the precision of the law required in the form of indictments, and that therefore the judgment ought to be arrested. The case, however, being of great public importance, the Judges were of opinion that the prisoner ought not to be discharged, as the prosecutor was at liberty to prefer a new indictment against him. The prisoner was of course detained in custody. However, in the succeeding month, March, he received his Majesty's free pardon.

JOSEPH LORRISON,

(Known among Thieves by the Appellation of "Jumping Joe,")

EXECUTED ON KENNINGTON COMMON, AUGUST 8, 1792, FOR ROBBERY ON THE HIGHWAY.

THIS was another notorious old offender. He was particularly dexterous in robbing waggons, which, while the driver was guiding his team, he quickly jumped into, and handed

handed out whatever packages he could lay his hands on, and gave them to his confederates, who were always in readiness to receive them.

He was tried for different species of robbery thirty times; and, for that on which he was convicted, had, by trick, nearly escaped. He was tried with James Nutter, for assaulting and robbing Mr. James Dixon, on the highway, of his watch and money, and condemned at the age of 53. When apprehended for this robbery, he was dressed in a smock-frock, and the prosecutor could not then swear to him; but on his putting on a coat, which was found in his room, he then swore positively that he was the man who robbed him.

Before and after conviction, however, he in the most solemn manner denied his guilt.

He was born in the county of Surrey, and resided for several years in the Borough of Southwark, where he was long known as a most daring and atrocious depredator on the public.

He was once tried for the murder of a watchman, and, though acquitted, from the evidence not being sufficient, was in general supposed to be guilty. He obtained the appellation of Jumping Joe from his dexterity in jumping into carts, waggon, &c. in order to rob them.

JOHN DAY,

THE MOST EXECRABLE MURDERER OF FATHER, MOTHER, AND
THEIR SERVANT.

—————“My heart sinks in me,
“ And ev’ry slacken’d fibre drops its hold,
“ Like nature dropping down the springs of life.”

DRYDEN.

THIS inhuman monster, having been one night in bad company, especially of lewd women, surfeiting in drunkenness,

eness, came home, swearing and cursing vehemently, requiring money of his sorrowful terrified parents, who endeavoured to pacify him with good words, entreating him to go to bed, and sleep that night; and if it appeared in the morning, when he awaked, that he wanted money, he should have it—little thinking that they nourished a viper in their bosom, to sting them to death.

About midnight this graceless son, being come a little to himself, got up with a murmuring mind, and, getting softly into the bedchamber of his parents, drew a large knife out of its sheath, and cut his aged father and mother's throats; after which desperate wickedness he remembered the servant maid, who lay in the loft above, and, that she might not come as a witness against him, he went softly up, and, finding her asleep, ravished her, and then cut her throat from ear to ear.

Then, musing upon the horrid villainies he had committed, the devil put it into his head to set the house on fire, when he had plundered what he thought fit, that, the dead bodies being consumed, it might be thought to have been by accident, and he not be suspected.

But God, who never suffers such monsters in wickedness to go unpunished, even in this world, brought the discovery to light; for though he denied to have been at home that night, and seemed wonderfully sorry at the surprising misfortune, as he termed it; yet, living very profusely, and having spent all his money, he was forced to sell the plate he had stolen, which being stopped, upon examination, he confessed the fact: upon which he was sent to gaol, where he remained very sorrowful; and he affirms the ghosts of the murdered persons appeared to him in frightful shapes, pointing to their ghastly wounds, and, in a threatening manner, summoning him to appear at the dreadful tribunal of Almighty God, to answer for their innocent blood, that cried for vengeance against him.

After he had lain some time in this sorrowful condition, his trial came on; when he pleaded guilty to the indictment; saying, his youthful sins had brought this heavy judgment upon him, declaring, before his sentence, he desired to die, as not being fit to live.

The Court exhorted him to a serious repentance of his
sins.

sins, and to pray to God to deliver his soul from blood-guiltiness. He promised to do what in him lay ; and a minister was ordered to attend him, and give him ghostly consolation, the short remainder of the time he had to live.

The minister who visited him prayed earnestly with and for him, that God would look down in mercy upon him, and wash his sin-polluted soul from blood-guiltiness in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. The same minister attended him to the place of execution, which exhibited a very affecting scene : here he burst into tears, and advised all young persons to beware of sabbath-breaking, drunkenness, swearing, and whoredom, as they valued their peace here and hereafter.

He was executed on Kennington-Common about the middle of September, 1792, and afterwards hung in chains near the bloody spot.

WILLIAM WINTERBOTTOM,

(*A Dissenting Preacher,*)

FINED AND IMPRISONED FOR PREACHING SEDITIOUS SERMONS.

THIS factious priest was convicted before Mr. Baron Perryn, at the assizes for the county of Devon, for preaching a seditious sermon at Plymouth on the 5th of November, 1792.

In the course of this discourse the defendant talked a great deal about the revolution in 1688. He was sorry to see the laws so much abused as they were at present. He also spoke of the French revolution, and he did not doubt but that would open the eyes of every Briton. He asked, why the streets were so crowded with vagrants, the workhouses with beggars, and the gaols with thieves ? All this, he said, was to be attributed to our oppressive taxes. It was high time for the people of this country to stand forward and assert their rights. He made mention of the national debt—he denied that any part of it was paid off; it was only like taking money out of one pocket,
and

and putting it into another. He said his majesty had no more right to the throne than the Stuarts, if he did not maintain the laws and established rules of the country. He urged that the revolution in France was wisely calculated for spreading the Gospel through twenty-five millions of people.

The defendant was also indicted and convicted, at the same time, for preaching at Plymouth another seditious sermon, on the 18th of November, 1792. He took his text from Romans xiii. 13. viz. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand ; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." In the course of this discourse the defendant introduced several strong observations.

After the evidence on both sides had been heard, the jury, without hesitation, found the defendant guilty.

Judgment having been prayed by the king's counsel, Mr. Justice Ashurst thus addressed the defendant:—"William Winterbottom, you have been found guilty of preaching two seditious and atrocious sermons. The first act of this daring profligacy you committed on the 5th of November, and the second on the 18th of the same month. It has been stated that you are a dissenting preacher: of what sect of religion you are I know not ; but I can collect from your preaching that you are not at all connected with the Christian religion; for the Christian religion, after first regarding the duty of God, teaches and inspires love for, and obedience to, the established government; but the tendency of your doctrine is to overturn all order, religion, morality, and government, and to introduce anarchy and confusion.

"Your doctrine goes to the abuse of that toleration by which it is meant that every man may be at liberty to reverence God in the way that his conscience may dictate. But your conscience dictates no such principles ; therefore the means that you have taken are a double aggravation of your guilt, and merit a two-fold punishment. In one part of your sermon you approve of the revolution of France.

"As to your first proposition, it is sufficient that the pernicious

nicious designs intended to have been executed are frustrated.

“As to your second opinion, that the French revolution would open the eyes of the people of England, there I agree with you; it does open the eyes of the people—it has taken the veil from off the hackneyed system of liberty and equality.

“All practical equality consists in the affording equal protection. This chimerical project has been tried in a neighbouring nation, the lamentable effects of which will be handed down with sorrow to the latest generation.—This system, which has been tried, must press upon the mind of men, and must operate more forcibly than a volume of arguments.

“As to your second proposition, it is impossible to be justified: you have alleged that the present form of government is a scourge to the people; but that the yoke of bondage will be soon broken; that persecution is near its end; and that every man will soon have to boast of **EQUALITY**.

“As to your saying that the French revolution will open the eyes of the people, I trust it will also open your eyes, and be a scourge to those who wish to introduce anarchy and confusion.

“This Court, having taken the malignity of your offence into their serious consideration, do consequently order and adjudge that, for your first offence, you pay a fine of 100l. to the king, and that you be imprisoned in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, in the county of Middlesex, for the term of two years; and that, for your second offence, you pay a fine of 100l. to the king, and be imprisoned in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, for the term of two years, to be computed after the expiration of your first imprisonment; and that, at the end of your imprisonment, you give security for your good behaviour for the term of five years, yourself in 500l. and two sureties in 250l. each.”

The defendant then wished to address the Court; but Lord Kenyon told him, “The Court cannot hear you now.—It would have been the duty of the Court to have heard you, if you had offered any thing before sentence was

passed : notwithstanding, the source of mercy is open to you."

The defendant was immediately taken into custody.

The itinerant declaimers from the pulpit to ignorant auditors are often not only a nuisance to society, but, as in the case of Winterbottom, dangerous to the state. Let preachers of the Gospel stick to their creed : when they dare to dabble in politics, with which they have no business, we hope to see them follow the disaffected subject of this inquiry into a prison.

The Reverend Mr. BURGH, JOHN CUMMINGS, Esq. a Captain in the Army, TOWNLEY M'CAN, Esq. a Student of Law, JAMES DAVIS, and JOHN BROWN,

CONVICTED OF A CONSPIRACY TO SET FIRE TO THE KING'S BENCH PRISON.

" Oh ! the curs'd fate of all conspiracies !

" They move on many springs ; if but one fail,

" The restive machine stops."

DRYDEN.

ON the trial of these conspirators, the Attorney-general said he flattered himself it would be found that he had done no more than his duty in bringing the several defendants before the Court.

The offence with which they were charged was of the utmost importance to the peace and safety of the capital ; for it not only had for its object the demolition of the King's Bench prison, but involved the burning of other houses, bloodshed, and murder.

He lamented that five persons, all of education and families respectable, should by their folly and imprudence, to call it by the softest name, bring themselves into such an unfortunate situation. One was a reverend divine ; another an officer in the army ; another had been in the profession

fession of the law ; and the others of respectable parents, and, as he understood, set out in the world with fair prospects of being honourable and useful members of the community.

The Attorney-general further said, that this case was pregnant with the most alarming circumstances, which would be better detailed by the witnesses than described by him.

The prisoner, Burgh, was the private chaplain to the Duke of Leinster, and a relation to the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

The first witness was Mr. Justice Buller's clerk, who produced a record to prove that the prisoner, Burgh, was lawfully confined in the King's Bench prison for debt. Evidence was produced to prove that the other prisoners were also confined in the same prison for debt.

Edward Webb said he knew all the prisoners: about the beginning of May last he was introduced into a society called "The Convivials," held in a room in the King's Bench prison, of which the prisoners were members.

M'Can expressed himself very freely upon the subject of Lord Rawdon's bill, then pending, respecting insolvent debtors, and said, if that bill did not pass into a law, he and others were determined to do something to liberate themselves; and that there was a scheme in agitation for that purpose, but that the parties were sworn to secrecy, and therefore he could not divulge it. The witness said he might safely communicate the business to him: the prisoners Cummings and Davis were present at the time.

M'Can afterwards opened the business to the witness ; he said the plan in which he and the other prisoners were concerned was to effect their own enlargement by demolishing the walls of the prison, as they were determined not to be confined within those walls for debt: the execution of this plan would, however, depend upon the rejection of Lord Rawdon's bill. After they had effected their escape by setting fire to the prison, they would then go to the Fleet prison, and liberate the prisoners ; after
which

which they should proceed to the houses of Lords Thurlow and Kenyon, which they would destroy.

Davis said he should not hesitate himself to blow out the brains of those noble lords. The witness saw the other defendants, who conversed upon the subject, and it was proposed to procure some sailors to assist them: this scheme was, however, defeated by the vigilance of the marshal, who sent for the guards, and had the prison searched throughout.

Shortly afterwards the witness saw M'Can, Cummings, and Davis, again, who said that, though they were defeated in the former scheme, they were determined to put some other plot into execution.

The next day Cummings (who was called the captain) said to the witness, "I have discovered the best plan that could be conceived for blowing up these d—d walls.—I'll shew you the place."

He then took the witness to the end of the bakehouse, and pointed out to him a place where the drain had been opened; he then described the force necessary to blow up the walls, and said he had studied the scheme upon his pillow; he then said it would be necessary to have a box about ten inches wide and as many deep, and described the tubes that were to convey the fire to the box, which he said must contain about fifty pounds' weight of gunpowder, and requested the witness would get it made. In the evening of the same day the witness saw M'Can and Davis come out of the coffee-room, and, alluding to the plot, said, "it was a glorious plan, and they would support it to the loss of their lives." They said no other person should be privy to it, excepting Mr. Brown, who was concerned in the former scheme, and who had got a large quantity of gunpowder ready. The witness observed to them that the neighbouring bakehouse and coffee-room would be in danger, and that poor Martin, who had a large family, would be killed: they replied it was no matter if they or a dozen more were killed, provided it procured the prisoners' freedom.

In a day or two afterwards the witness was walking upon the parade with Cummings, M'Can, and Brown. He asked if Mr. Brown knew of the plot; they said he did.

Brown

Brown said they should have the powder, and that Mrs. Brown should bring it to the witness's house in small quantities. M'Can then proposed that, in order to raise money to purchase the gunpowder, a motion should be made, in the club of Convivials, for a subscription of five shillings each, under pretence of feeing counsel to know whether the marshal had a right to enter his prisoners' apartments when he pleased. This proposal was agreed to, and the motion was accordingly made.

After several other consultations, at which all the prisoners were present, it was agreed that the gunpowder should be deposited in a hole in the floor of Burgh's room, where it was afterwards found.

It was also agreed that, on the day the plot was to be carried into execution, M'Can and Brown were to have a sham fencing-match for a great deal of money: this was to collect together all the prisoners at the time the gunpowder was set fire to, and thereby afford them a chance of making their escape.

The day was at length fixed to be on a Sunday, about seven o'clock in the evening, being a time at which a number of strangers were likely to be in the prison.

Cummings had the sole management of this plot. Burgh said that the noise and confusion it would create would, he hoped, bring about a revolution in this country.

The box was produced in court.

H. T. Hendacre confirmed the substance of the evidence of the last witness, as did Mr. Battersley. These witnesses stated, by way of addition, that Davis gave half a guinea to purchase some gunpowder; that the prisoners carried on a correspondence with a society in the borough of Southwark; that Mr. Dundas's house was one that was fixed on for destruction; that the prisoners had two schemes in contemplation to effect their escape;—the one was to tie down all the turnkeys; the other the gunpowder plot in question, of which Cummings had the sole conduct, he being considered the engineer.

A seditious song, stated to be written by M'Can, was also produced, and read in court.

Mr. Rouse made a very able speech on behalf of the prisoners. He called three witnesses to impeach the credit

dit of those for the prosecution, but their evidence was of little effect.

Lord Kenyon summed up the whole of the evidence in the most able and impartial manner; after which the jury retired for a short time, and, upon their return, found all the prisoners "Guilty."

On Tuesday, February 12, 1793, the prisoners were brought to receive the judgment of the Court.

The prisoner Cummings produced a petition, in which he stated that he had been for several years an officer in his Majesty's service, and had then two sons in the army, who, in consequence of the calamitous situation of the prisoner, were deprived of the education and support necessary to their station and rank. He stated several other circumstances in mitigation of punishment.

The prisoner Townley M'Can produced an affidavit, in which he stated that he was a student of law, and had formed an opinion, from several writers, that imprisonment for debt was illegal. He disclaimed any criminal intention, and positively denied that he or his fellow-prisoners had carried on a correspondence with the Revolution Society in the Borough, or ever had a design to kill the two great Law Lords, as alleged by a witness on the trial, but which was a fabrication of that witness, to recommend himself to the favour of government.

Mr. Burgh addressed the Court in an elegant speech, and with great emotion, in the course of which he spoke in the highest terms of the humane conduct of Mr. Kirby, the keeper of Newgate, to all his prisoners.

They were severally sentenced to three years' imprisonment, but in different prisons.

We shall forbear making any remarks upon the above trial, being assured that the prisoners themselves must ultimately have been convinced of their rashness and folly.

LAURENCE

LAURENCE JONES,

(*A notorious Swindler,*)

SENTENCED TO DEATH IN 1793, BUT WHO HANGED HIMSELF THREE DAYS PREVIOUS TO THAT APPOINTED FOR HIS EXECUTION.

THOUGH many writers have attempted some moral excuse for suicide, yet we find it inexcusable in any point of view. Hamlet says,

“The Almighty fix’d his canon ’gainst self-murder.”

The prince, therefore, though robbed of his succession to the throne of Denmark, and with the knowledge that his father was basely murdered by his uncle, yet would not, after mature deliberation, take away his own life, which belonged to God alone.

In examining the crime of self-murder with the eyes of a philosopher, we find in it a cowardly dereliction from the firmness of a great mind.

People can be restrained from sin only by religion or the dread of death; and, when both these ties are broken, what crimes may we not expect to be committed! Where laws and religion no longer prevail, kings will totter on their thrones, ministers drop from off their perch of power, and the people, in one general wreck, again sink into the barbarity of the earliest times.

The self-murderer, Jones, was born in London, of respectable parents, whose too great indulgence towards him in his early years probably led to his untimely end. He received a genteel education, and, possessing a good address, he introduced himself into the first company, which unfortunately led him into habits of extravagance his income was not equal to; though he enjoyed a lucrative employment in one of the public offices, where, being detected in some mal-practices, he was discharged. His means of subsistence being now entirely gone, and his character also, he found himself under the necessity of doing something, in order to support himself and a lady of easy virtue, with whom he cohabited, and to whose extravagance there was no end.

He

He therefore determined to commence swindler, which he continued for some time with success, till, being suspected, he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate, where he contracted an acquaintance with the noted George Barrington, who was at the time in confinement, previous to his transportation to Botany-bay. A quarrel once arising between Barrington and Jones, a battle ensued, in which Barrington came off the conqueror, and Jones was beat in a shocking manner; and for which, it appearing Barrington was the aggressor, he was confined in the cells of Newgate.

The sessions arriving when Jones was to be tried, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

Once again at liberty, and having a considerable sum of money left him by a relation about this time, he resolved to set up in his old trade on an extensive scale, for which purpose he took a very handsome house in St. James's, which he had elegantly furnished, and kept his carriage and servants, who, by-the-by, were accomplices to carry on the deception, which he did with great success for some months.

During his abode in this place he defrauded Mr. Hudson, a silversmith, of plate, to the value of near three thousand pounds; Mr. Kempton, a mercer, of silks and other goods, to a large amount; and Mr. Bailey, a watchmaker and jeweller, of a gold repeater, &c. &c. to the value of 300l.

The time of payment coming on, and suspicion being entertained of his pretensions to property, he thought it time to decamp, which he effected just in time to escape a warrant out against him.

After this he lived privately for some time, that suspicion might die away before he again began his fraudulent practices, which he carried on with his usual success till he failed in the affair in Hatton-garden, for which he was condemned; the particulars of which are as follow:

Mr. Campbell was the collecting clerk to Vere, Lucadou, and Co. bankers, in Lombard-street, and in the course of his business he called at a house (which was hired for the express purpose of preying upon the unwary) for the payment

payment of a bill—a scheme concerted before by the villains.

No sooner had he knocked at the door than it was opened by a person, in appearance a gentleman, who desired him to walk into the counting-house; on entering which a man came behind him, and covered his head and face with a thick cap, so as completely to blindfold him. They then threw him on the floor, and wrapped him up in a green baize, in which condition he was bound hand and foot, and carried down stairs, when they proceeded to rob him.

They took from him his pocket-book, with bank-notes and bills to the amount of 900*l*. They then took measures to prevent a discovery before they should receive the money for the bills &c. with which one of the gang immediately went out, to turn them into cash; while the rest, in the mean time, handled the unfortunate young man in the following manner:

They first laid him flat on his back on a board, and chained him hand and foot, and then carried him down stairs into a back kitchen, where they chained him to the bars of a copper grate, threatening that if he made a noise they would blow his brains out.

They then left him, after placing before him some bread, ham, and water.

In this condition he remained for about eight hours, not daring to make the least noise, expecting every moment to be murdered if he spoke; but Providence preserved him from this dreadful fate; for, hearing no more of them for so many hours, he at last had the courage to call out, thinking it better to have his brains blown out at once than perish in that miserable condition.

After calling out with all his might for near three hours his cries were at last heard by a man who was at work in a house behind that in which Mr. Campbell was confined. The man had the resolution to break open the door of the house from whence the noise proceeded, when, directed by the cry, he went down stairs, and there discovered the unfortunate man almost expiring, exhausted with struggling and crying out so long.

It was not long before he was set at liberty, and restored

to his friends, to their great joy, and the infinite satisfaction of his employers.

Jones was apprehended by Jealous and Kennedy, officers of Bow-street, at the King's Arms, in Bridge-street, Westminster. Kennedy seeing that he agreed with the description of the person, as lodged at Bow-street, who opened the door to Campbell, he took him into custody, with the assistance of Jealous.

Before they attempted to search him it was judged expedient to call in some assistance, Jones being rather of a refractory disposition, and fearing a rescue might be attempted, there being a great concourse of people in Palace-yard, some of whom might have been his companions.

For that purpose Jealous went out, and left his prisoner with Kennedy till he should return. During Jealous's absence Jones became very importunate with Kennedy, respecting the cause of his being apprehended.

On Jealous's arrival with a reinforcement of four, viz. M^cManus, Carpmeal, Townsend, and Lavender, Jones was searched, but nothing of consequence found upon him, except a direction to his lodgings, which he attempted to snatch from Townsend's hand, but failed.

They then proceeded to conduct him to a place of safety; but, just as they left the room, Kennedy desired Carpmeal to return, look into the fire-place, and see if there was any thing there, the prisoner having stood with his back against it; which he did, and returned with a handful of bills and notes: they then proceeded to a place of security, where they left him, and immediately set off for his lodgings in Peckham-Rye-lane, which was the place specified on the paper found in Jones's pocket; and, on their arrival there, found his wife, his brother, and two other persons, all of whom they brought to town, together with a great quantity of papers, among which was a letter to Mr. Pitt, the contents of which were not ascertained. On his examination he behaved very insolently.

Being committed to Newgate, he was afterwards tried and found guilty, when he received sentence, and was ordered for execution on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1793, in Hatton-garden, near the house where he committed the robbery;

bery; but on Sunday previous thereto, about six o'clock in the morning, when the turnkey entered the cell to prepare him to hear the condemned sermon and receive the sacrament, he found him dead. It appears that he had made several attempts on his life before, but was prevented; and the manner in which he at last accomplished this worst of all crimes was very extraordinary: he had taken the knee-strings with which his fetters were supported, and tied them round his neck: then, tying the other end to the ring which his chain was fastened to, he placed his feet against the wall, and strangled himself. The coroner's jury pronounced a verdict of "Felo de se."

In consequence of the above verdict the body was, on Wednesday morning, carried out of Newgate, extended upon a plank on the top of an open cart, in his clothes, and fettered, his face covered with a white cloth, to the brow of Holborn-hill, directly opposite to the end of Hatton-garden. The procession was attended by the sheriffs, city-marshals, and near five hundred constables. Being arrived at what may be called the place of execution, the body was deposited in a deep pit, and a stake driven through it, according to the coroner's verdict.

CHARLES TALMAGE,

CONVICTED, ALONG WITH MARY MALLET, OF BURGLARY, AND HANGED AT WINCHESTER, MARCH 12, 1794: THE LATTER ESCAPED HER PUNISHMENT FOR A TIME. UNDER THE PLEA OF PREGNANCY.

THIS is a plea granted, by a very old statute, to females convicted of felony, in arrest of judgment, in order that the living fruit of the womb should not perish for the mother's sins.

In this case a jury of women, called by the law Matrons, that is, females who have themselves borne children, are sworn, who, upon their several and respective oaths, swear, after personal examination, whether the condemned female is "quick with child."

In the instance of Mary Mallet the jury of matrons were impanelled, and brought in their verdict in confirmation of

her plea, in consequence whereof her sentence was respited until the next assizes.

This woman, along with Charles Talmage, was convicted at the Lent assizes held in the city of Winchester, 1794, of burglariously entering the house of Elizabeth Imber, of that city, and stealing thereout a large amount in cash, a considerable quantity of plate, and other valuable effects.

On the 22d of March, in pursuance of his sentence, Charles Talmage was conveyed in a cart to the usual place of execution. He manifested, throughout the whole of this trying scene, a great degree of firmness; acknowledged that he had committed many offences; but solemnly protested his innocence of the crime for which he suffered. A label, containing the following words, was affixed to his breast;—"Be thou my Judge, O Lord, for I am innocently betrayed." Talmage was a well-looking young man, aged twenty-seven, a native of Winchester, where he left a father, mother, and other relations.

ELIZABETH MARSH,

THE MURDERESS OF HER GRANDFATHER.

IN the enlightened days of the conclusion of the last century we are astonished at finding a single individual of the British empire so totally uninformed, so entirely lost to all morality or religion, as this unfortunate female.

Man, though endowed with reason, in his state of nature is a dangerous animal, and without laws to restrain him, and religion to guide him through life, would have but little superiority over the brute creation.

" 'Tis education forms the youthful mind,
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclin'd."

At Dorchester assizes, March, 1794, Elizabeth Marsh, a girl only fifteen years of age, was convicted of the murder of her grandfather, John Nevil, at Modern, and ordered to be executed forty-eight hours after.

This

This girl lived with her grandfather, and, with the most deliberate malice, deprived the old man (who was seventy years of age) of his life, by giving him two dreadful blows on the head while he was asleep. This unhappy wretch was bred in such extreme ignorance, that she declared it was only since her confinement she had become acquainted with the difference between good and evil, heaven and hell. She was executed according to her sentence.

Thus we see the unhappy effects of rearing children in ignorance: if not timely instructed in the ways of religion, they generally bring shame both upon themselves and family.

ROBERT PERRY, and his two Sons, JOHN and WILLIAM PERRY,

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY, AND THE FATHER EXECUTED AT FISHERTON GAOL, IN APRIL, 1794.

IN the case of the ATHOES (Vol. I. page 224) we detailed a sad instance of the depravity of a father stimulating his son to wickedness. Robert Perry, in one point of view, was a more hardened villain than the elder Athoe. The latter urged his son to seek revenge for a supposed injury in the blood of his enemy; but Perry appears to have brought two of his sons, progressively, to the guilty practice of thieving.

Had he sung with the pious poet, and acted up to his advice, he might have educated these youths in a manner that would have rendered them a comfort to his old age and a credit to themselves:—

“ Let virtue all our footsteps guide,

“ And all our ways attend,

“ Guard us through life with decent pride,

“ Sustain us in our end.

“ For, let misfortunes e’er so great

“ Oppress us e’er so hard,

“ Yet virtue will, or soon or late,

“ Attain its due reward.”

Instead

Instead of giving such advice, like a base old wretch the father led his children on the highway, directing their depredations on innocent passengers. This abhorred parent had been a very old and atrocious offender against the laws of his country.

He was convicted of felony twenty years previous to committing the robbery for which he suffered, but had the punishment of death commuted for transportation.

He served the time, seven years, upon the hulks at Woolwich; and, as soon as he was discharged, returned to his old trade of thieving.

At length this desperate gang of relatives attacked Mr. Powles and Mr. King, of Broad Walk, upon the highway, and robbed them; for which they were brought to trial at Salisbury, convicted, and sentenced to death. The old sinner was executed, and his unworthy sons sent to Botany Bay.

ROBERT WATT and DAVID DOWNIE,

CONVICTED OF HIGH TREASON AT EDINBURGH, WITH PARTICULARS OF
THE EXECUTION OF A TRAITOR IN SCOTLAND.

WE are now arrived at an alarming period of the modern history of our country. Just engaged in the late ruinous war with France, perplexed by treason at home, and threatened with invasion by our enemy, the nation was in a critical situation.

Confederate bodies of dissatisfied men were formed, from London to Edinburgh, pursuing a systematical course of treason, and corresponding with each other, until government stretched out its powerful arm to crush the traitors.

Many writers charge ministry with oppression; but, at such a time as this, better, surely, to support the constitution, corrupt as may be its administration, than suffer its subversion, and see ourselves thrown into that anarchy and confusion sought for by such men as we shall soon bring before the reader.

Watt

Watt and Downie were principals in the Scottish conspiracy, and were convicted of the crime of high treason. Their trial brought to light the particulars of a plot to overthrow the constitution of Great Britain ; and from which we shall, therefore, make a copious extract.

Their trial came on before the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 3d of September, 1794, when Mr. Anstruther stated the case on the part of the crown. He began by observing, that, such was the peculiar happiness of this country, we had been unacquainted with the law of treason for nearly half a century. It was not his intention, if he possessed the power, to inflame the passions of the jury against the prisoners : his object was to give a plain, dry, narrative of the facts, and a succinct statement of the law.

The laws of treason were now the same in England and Scotland, and the duty of the subjects of both kingdoms should be the same. Scotland, in this instance, reaped much benefit by the Union, as her laws of treason, previous to that period, were much more severe. The act of Edw. III. stated three distinct species of treason : 1. Compassing and imagining the death of the king ; 2. Levying war against him ; 3. Assisting his enemies. He would not trouble the Court or jury with the two last : the single species of treason charged in the present case was the compassing and imagining the death of the king ; which was defined by the conceiving such a design ; not the actual act, but the attempt to effect it. But the law which thus anxiously guarded the sovereign was equally favourable to the subject ; for it does not affect him until that imagination is fully proved before “ men of his condition.”

An overt act of treason is the means used for effectuating the purpose of the mind : it is not necessary to prove a direct attempt to assassinate the king ; for the crime is the intention, and the overt act the means used to effect it.

He wished not that these sentiments might be held as the opinion of counsel : they were founded on the construction of the ablest writers, Chief Justices Foster, Hal , &c. and whatever could be proved against the prisoners
which

which might endanger the king's person, was an overt act of high treason in the language of the ablest writers.

After explaining more fully the distinct species of treason which applied to the present case, Mr. Anstruther said he trusted that, if he could prove any design whereby the king's person was in danger, that was an overt act: if he was wrong, the judges would correct him.

He would now state the facts on which these principles of law were to be laid. The present conspiracy was not that of a few inconsiderable individuals: it had risen, indeed, from small beginnings—from meetings for pretended reforms. It had been fostered by seditious correspondence, the distribution of libellous writings, and had, at last, risen to a height, which, but for the vigilance of administration, might have deluged the country, from one end to the other, with blood.

The proceedings of these societies, calling, or rather miscalling, themselves Friends of the People, were well known. Their first intention was apparently to obtain reform; but this not answering their purpose, they proceeded to greater lengths. He meant to detail the general plans and designs formed among the seditious, and then to state how far the prisoners were implicated in them.

The first dawning of this daring plan was in a letter from Hardy, secretary to the London Corresponding Society, to Skirving, the secretary to the Friends of the People here.

He writes that, as their petitions had been unsuccessful, they must use separate and more effectual measures. Skirving answered, and admitted the necessity of more effectual measures; that he foresaw the downfall of this government, &c. Here also was the first notice of a convention; a measure which it is no wonder they were fond of, when they saw its effects in a neighbouring kingdom (France). They meant not to petition Parliament, but to proceed in their own plan, and supersede the existing government of the country; and, in that case, the king's life was put in danger.

Soon after, a convention, a body unknown to the laws of this country, met; and in this there would have been little harm, had their views been peaceable: but their objects

jects were avowedly unconstitutional; and their intention was to carry on their plans by force, and thus virtually to lay aside the prerogative of the king.

This convention accordingly met, using all the terms, regulations, &c. adopted by the convention of another country; in which, it might be said, there was in reality little harm, but it was surely a marking proof of their designs. They meant not to apply to Parliament; for, whenever that was mentioned, they proceeded to the order of the day. They resolved to oppose every act of Parliament which they deemed contrary to the spirit of the constitution, and were determined to continue their sittings until compelled to rise by a force superior to their own.

This convention, indeed, was dispersed by the spirited conduct of a magistrate (Provost Elder), whose merit every one was forward to acknowledge, and to whose active exertions the country was so much indebted; but another convention was attempted to be called, who were to frame their own laws, and to be independent of the legislature; or, as they say, independent of their plunderers, enemies, and oppressors, meaning the King, Lords, and Commons: their resolutions will prove that they meant to create a government of their own, to do away the authority of what they called hereditary senators and packed majorities; all which prove the intention of putting the king's life in danger.

But what, it may be said, is all this to the prisoner at the bar, who, surprising as it may appear, about two years ago, wrote letters to Mr. Secretary Dundas, offering to give information as to certain designs of the Friends of the People? These letters were answered by that right honourable gentleman with that propriety which has ever marked his public conduct. The prisoner then corresponded with the lord advocate, the particulars of which would appear, as his lordship was subpoenaed.

Since September, 1793, this correspondence has ceased. Previous to that period the prisoner was not a member of the Society of Friends of the People, nor of the British Convention; but his accession since to its measures, and the calling of another convention, could be substantiated.

The convention, indeed, though dispersed, did not cease to exist.

In fact, a Committee of Correspondence, of which the prisoner was a member, was instituted, the object of which was to carry into effect the views of the last British Convention, and to elect delegates to a new one. Mr. Watt attended this committee, and coincided in its measures, which were expressly to supersede the legislature.

The prisoner had moved for a Committee of Union, and another was appointed, called the Committee of Ways and Means, of both which he was a member. This last was a Secret Committee, kept no minutes, was permanent, and empowered to collect money to support "the great cause." Mr. Downie was appointed treasurer, and it was to be the medium through which all instructions and directions were to be given to all Friends of the People throughout the kingdom, and was to procure information of the number of those that would spare no exertions to support the great cause.

They corresponded with Hardy, respecting the calling of a new convention, which was to follow up the purposes of the old one; and, as the prisoner was present, he was in this way coupled with the British Convention.

Their next attempt was to debauch the minds of the soldiers, and to excite them to mutiny; for which purpose a paper was printed, and circulated among a regiment of fencibles then at Dalkeith.

This paper, which was evidently seditious, would be brought home to the prisoner, for the types from which it was printed were found in his house, and a copy traced from him into the hands of a soldier.

The next charge to be brought against the prisoner, and the committee of which he was a member, was a distinct and deliberate plan to overturn the existing government of the country.

The plan proposed was this:—A fire was to be raised near the Excise-office (Edinburgh), which would require the attendance of the soldiers in the Castle, who were to be met there by a body of the Friends of the People, another party of whom were to issue from the West Bow, to confine the soldiers between two fires, and cut off their retreat.

retreat. The Castle was next to be attempted ; the judges (particularly the Lord Justice Clerk) were to be seized ; and all the public banks were to be secured.

A proclamation was then to be issued, ordering all the farmers to bring in their grain to market as usual, and enjoining all country gentlemen to keep within their houses, or three miles from them, under penalty of death. Then an address was to be sent to his majesty, commanding him to put an end to the war, change the ministers, or take the consequences. Such was the plan of the Committee of Ways and Means, as proposed by the prisoner.

Previous to this it should have been mentioned that all the Friends of the People were to be armed. To attain this object one Fairley was dispatched round the country to levy contributions and disperse seditious pamphlets ; for which purpose he got particular instructions from the prisoner.

Reports were spread through the same channel that the Goldsmiths' Hall Association were arming ; and that it was necessary for the Friends of the People to arm also, for they would be butchered either by them or the French.

It would be proved that the prisoner gave orders to Robert Orrock to make 4,000 pikes ; and also to one Brown for the same purpose. These were to be used for completing the great plan ; and Fairley's mission was to inform the country of these intended proceedings. Another representative body was also formed, called " Collectors of Sense and Money," who were to have the distribution of the pikes, and to command the different parties. In one instance a person had been desired to carry some pikes to the collectors ; who made answer, that he could not do it, for the collectors were not to be trusted yet.

Mr. Anstruther then recapitulated shortly the different heads, and concluded an elaborate and most clear and distinct pleading of more than two hours and a half by requesting the jury to lay no farther stress on what he had said than the testimony in corroboration would warrant, as it was meant merely as a clue to the evidence which should be brought before them.

The first witness called was Edward Lauzun, a king's messenger.

messenger. Upon being asked if he was employed last summer to search the house of one Hardy, in London, Mr. Hamilton, counsel for the prisoner, objected to the question, and insisted that, before proving any other matter whatever, some direct overt act committed by the prisoner must be proved.

Mr. Anstruther answered, that before proving the prisoner guilty of being concerned in a particular plot or conspiracy, it was surely necessary first to prove that such plot or conspiracy existed. In the trials in the year 1745, before any particular overt act was attempted to be proved against any of the accused, there was always evidence adduced to prove the existence of a rebellion.

The Court overruled the objection. The witness then swore that he seized several papers in Hardy's house, particularly a letter signed by one Skirving, and several others : also a printed circular letter, signed " T. Hardy, secretary." These letters the witness produced.

Mr. William Scott, procurator fiscal for the shire of Edinburgh, gave an account of the seizure of Skirving's papers in December, 1793, and of the after-disposal of them. He produced several of these papers, particularly one entitled " Minutes of Debate in the General Committee ;" also several papers that were found in the lodgings of Margarot, Gerald, and Sinclair. Mr. Scott swore to his being present at the dispersion of the convention.

The letter by Skirving and Hardy, being authenticated by Mr. Lauzun, who swore he found it in Hardy's possession, was then read.

John Taylor, of Fleet-street, London, was then called. He swore he was a member of the London Corresponding Society, and was acquainted with Mr. Hardy, who was secretary to that society. Being shewn several letters and papers, he believed them to be Hardy's handwriting.—The society consisted of many divisions—about fourteen, he thought, in number ; there were several committees, particularly a General one, which consisted of a member from each division, a Committee of Secrecy, and a Committee of Emergency. The latter was formed in May last. He attended a general meeting of the society at the Globe Tavern on the 20th of January last: about one thousand
were

were present. So great was the crowd, that the floor gave way, and the meeting adjourned to the Assembly-room, where the secretaries read the resolutions, which were afterwards printed. An address, founded on these resolutions, was afterwards carried by a shew of hands. One of the resolutions was, that the motions of Parliament were to be watched over; and if troops were to be brought into the country, or the Habeas Corpus Act suspended, &c. that force ought to be repelled by force.

This witness produced a copy of these resolutions, which he got from a person of the name of Moir, in the presence of Hardy. He saw several other copies about the room. The witness was also present at another meeting, held at Chalk Farm (about two miles from London) on the 14th of April last. The meeting was of the same nature as the former; there were about three thousand persons present, and, among others, Mr. Hardy.

Henry Goodman, clerk to Mr. Wickham, London, was present at the meeting at Chalk Farm, and heard the resolutions read. The resolutions now shewn to him were, as far as he recollected, the resolutions passed at that meeting. He understood that it was the intention of the society to arm themselves, to protect the members in the same way that the National Convention of France had been protected by the citizens of Paris; that he heard this talked of in different meetings.

Alexander Atchison was a member of, and assistant secretary to, the British Convention, and wrote part of their minutes. He deposed that the papers now shewn in Court to him he had often seen before; that he took down the minutes as accurately as he could; that he recollected Mr. Callander making several motions in the convention, and particularly an amendment to a motion, which was referred to a committee. This amendment was read. It related to the agreement in the convention to continue permanent, and watch over the motions of Parliament, &c. &c. He knew Mr. Watt, the prisoner, and was, together with him, a member of the Committee of Union. That Committee met in January last, the convention being previously dispersed in December.— The purpose of this committee was to keep up a spirit of
union

union among the friends of reform, and that he was sent there by the division of Canongate.

The great object of the committee was to obtain the same kind of reform sought for by Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Richmond about twelve years ago. That he was a member also of the Committee of Ways and Means, which was instituted for the purpose of paying past debts, and to defray the expense of future delegates to another convention, to be held somewhere in England, which second convention was meant for the same purpose as the British Convention, namely, obtaining the reform first proposed by Pitt and Richmond ; that he has often had conversations with different persons on the subject of reform; that he recollected having seen a pike in the house of George Ross, in the presence of several blacksmiths, which was shaped like the head of a halberd. Being asked whether he ever gave a different account of what he had now sworn at any other place, he believed he never did : if he did, it must be contrary to truth ; and this he should say, though he should be guillotined for it.

Mr. W. Erskine, also counsel for the prisoners, here stopped the witness, who was removed. He said that it was an established point in the law of Scotland that a witness could not be affected by any thing he had before said relative to the present subject of his examination, nor could it hurt him in any degree.

Mr. Anstruther said that this did not exist in the law of England.

The Lord President observed that it appeared to him there was really a discrepancy in the law in this respect.

Mr. Anstruther here said, that to put an end to the dispute, and as Atchison had conducted himself in such a manner, he would, so far from laying any stress on his evidence, request the jury to throw out of their minds every syllable he had asserted.

George Ross authenticated the minutes of convention, and other papers; knew the prisoner at the bar, and had seen him at his own house.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the pikes being brought from Watt's, and the fount of types, of which he had got an

an impression taken in the precise state they came from Watt's house.

[Paper read—An Address to the Fencibles.]

James Sommeville, a printer, deposed as to the casting off the impression from the types.

William Watson, at Dalkeith, once saw Watt at his own house, but could not say whether the prisoner at the bar was the man. Remembered a fencible regiment in Dalkeith, which was about the time he met with Mr. Downie, who carried him to Watt's, to get a hand-bill about the fencibles, which he had heard of, and was curious to see ; but could not get it there ; and went to one Kennedy on the South Bridge, from whence he received several copies.

The Lord Advocate said, that, except those (Downie and Stock), against whom bills were already found, he meant to bring no other person to trial for treason.

Arthur M'Ewan, weaver, of Leith, a member of the British Convention, and also of the Committee of Ways and Means, of which last Watt was a member, deposed that, at one of their meetings, Watt read a paper, proposing to seize the judges, banks, &c. to decoy the soldiers by a fire, &c. but did not know what was to be done with the persons seized, nor whether it was to be done in the day or night. Commissioners were to be appointed to take charge of the cash, but knew not what was to follow this. Deposed as to the proclamation to corn-dealers and country gentlemen, and the address to the king to put an end to the war, &c. Watt asked him to accompany him to Orrock's, to whom he (Watt) gave orders to make pikes as fast as he could, as he had 4,000 to send to Perth, besides what he had to distribute at Edinburgh. Orrock made a draft of one : a gentleman's servant, asking what was their use, was told that they were for mounting a gate. Knew that Fairley was sent into the country, and had visited a number of places ; that he reported Paisley to be in a state of great readiness, but did not know what that meant. The witness disapproved of these proceedings, and would consent to nothing that would disturb the peace, or shed the

the blood of his countrymen; and he thought the plan proposed would have that tendency. Watt produced, at one of the meetings, a paper containing what was called fundamental principles, which he knew but little of.

William Bonthorn was a member of the Society of the Friends of the People, but had resolved to withdraw, as things had passed which he disapproved of. Watt, at one of their meetings, read a paper, of which he did not remember the particulars, as it confused him. The paper contained something about seizing the Castle, raising an alarm by fire, &c. upon the supposition that numbers could be got to assist them. Remembered nothing of particular persons being intended to be seized; but thought the banks were mentioned. This paper frightened him much; it mentioned also the seizing the guard-house: recollected no numbers that were mentioned to carry this plan into effect.—M'Ewan shewed an opposition to it. The circular letter of the Committee was written by Mr. Stock.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the finding sundry papers in Watt's house—one the drawing of a pike, and the paper sworn to by Atchison, in the Sub-committee.

John Fairley, of Broughton, a delegate to the convention, deposed that his constituents met after the dissolution of that body. Heard the pikes were making, and Watt informed him of this, or rather shewed him one.—Watt said that they were only intended for self-defence, and that none were to get them but those who applied and paid for them. Measures of government might drive them to despair, and cause bloodshed; but Watt said he hoped there would be none, as the obnoxious or active against the cause of the people would be imprisoned.—The soldiers would be glad of freedom, and deputations might be sent them. Watt proposed to shew the arms to the collectors, which the witness objected to, as hazardous. In going to the West country, a parcel was left for him by Watt, containing papers for distribution; which he left at Stirling, St. Ninion's, Kirkintulloch, Glasgow, Paisley, &c.

On his return to Edinburgh he went to the Committee of Ways and Means. Watt, Downie, and M'Ewan, were there, to whom he reported the result of his journey. Returned the instructions to Watt: they mentioned, he recollected

recollected, something about a plan, and Britain being free. Downie paid him the expenses of his journey.

Dr. Forrest, at Stirling, gave an account of Fairley's calling on him, shewing him his written instructions, &c. In these instructions there was a blank, which he supposed was to be filled up "arms." Shewed him the figure of a weapon like a halberd, which was preparing for defence, and that these weapons could be furnished by a person who, he understood, was about Edinburgh. Something passed about arming the people and disarming the soldiers.

Robert Orrock, smith, first heard arms mentioned in G. Ross's house in March last. In April Watt applied to him to make a pike, and he brought one to Ross's, where Watt and other members of the committee were, and he left it at Watt's desire. In May Watt desired him to make more of that pattern, and some of a different kind. While making them, a person (Martin Todd) called, and shewed a form of a pike, which he refused to make. Brown also called, and told him he was making pikes for Watt, and that 1000 were wanted; but spoke of this as a secret, which alarmed the witness. The extent of his order was five dozen, which were ordered by Watt, but paid for by Downie. He was told, if inquired about, to say they were for the top of a gate: never had an order for pikes before; but had made one for his own defence, without being employed by any person.

Martin Todd, smith, deposed as to calling on Orrock to inquire about the pikes.

William Brown, a smith, said one Robertson called on him to bespeak several spears of a particular shape for Watt; and at another time he made fourteen spears for Mr. Watt, like mole spears. Recollected the conversation with Orrock, but did not say that such a number of pikes would be wanted.

John Fairley was re-examined, at his own desire. He recollected Watt saying that the banks and public offices were to be seized. The most active against them were to be imprisoned, and couriers sent to the country to announce this. The magistrates of Edinburgh were particularly spoken of.

Walter Miller, Perth, sent money to Downie, for relief of distressed patriots in the cause of reform : never had authority for supposing that the new convention had any object but reform by legal means.

Here the evidence for the crown was closed.

Defence of Watt.

Mr. W. Erskine, junior counsel for the prisoner, said, that, as the Court had sat so long, he would not trouble them with many words. He would rest his defence upon the correspondence carried on between the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, the Lord Advocate, and the prisoner, by which it would appear that he had attended the meetings of the Friends of the People with no other view than a design to give information of their proceedings. A letter from the prisoner to Mr. Secretary Dundas was read, which stated in substance that, as he did not approve of the dangerous principles which then prevailed in Scotland, and was a friend to the constitution of his country, he thought it his duty to communicate to him, as a good subject, what information he could gain of the proceedings of those who styled themselves Friends of the People. From an acquaintance with several of the leading men among them, he flattered himself he had this in his power ; and then went on to mention some of the names of those leading men in Perth, Dundee, and Edinburgh. In the first of these places, he said, he had been educated, and had resided in the two last for a considerable number of years. It concluded with enjoining secrecy.

To this letter an answer was returned, which was also read. It acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Watt's ; and, after expressing a hope that things were not so bad as he represented, desired him to go on, and he might depend upon his communications being kept perfectly secret.

Another letter from Mr. Dundas to Mr. M'Ritchie, the prisoner's agent, was next read, in answer to one from Mr. M'Ritchie, requesting of Mr. Dundas what letters he had of the prisoner's. The answer stated that all the letters he had received from Mr. Watt had been delivered to the Lord Advocate.

Mr.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk authenticated the letter of Mr. Dundas.

The Lord Advocate being sworn in exculpation, he gave a distinct account of the transactions which he had had with the prisoner. He had conversed with him several times at his own lodgings ; and he had at one time given him some information which he thought of importance. This was respecting the disaffection of some dragoons at Perth, which, upon inquiry, turned out to be ill founded.

In March, 1793, his lordship said, an offer had been made to him to disclose some important secrets, provided he would give the prisoner 1000*l*. This he absolutely refused. However, some time after, the prisoner having informed him that he was much pressed for money to retrieve a bill of 30*l*. his lordship, who was then in London, not wishing he should be distressed for such a small sum, sent him an order for the payment of it. All this happened previous to the meeting of the convention ; since which time, at least since October last, he did not recollect seeing or having any connexion with the prisoner.

Mr. Hamilton contended that the prosecutor had failed in bringing the most criminal part of it home to the prisoner. He dwelt long on the correspondence between Mr. Dundas and Mr. Watt. He said the prisoner had not deserted the service in which he had engaged ; but had not had an opportunity of exercising it until the very time he was apprehended.

He contended that he was a spy for government ; and it was well known that a spy was obliged to assume not only the appearance of those whose secrets he meant to reveal, but even to take part in their proceedings, in order to prevent a discovery. He alluded to spies in armies, and mentioned a melancholy circumstance which happened to one last war—a gentleman with whom he had the honour of being acquainted. A spy in an army, he said, was obliged not only to assume the uniform of the enemy, but even to appear in arms ; and it would be exceedingly hard indeed, if taken in conflict, that he should be punished for discharging his duty. He concluded with
hoping



hoping the jury would bring in a verdict, finding the charges not proved.

The Lord President, after clearly defining the laws of treason, summed up the evidence, narrating and explaining the various parts with much candour, leaving it entirely to the jury to return such a verdict as their judgment should direct.

The jury withdrew about half past five o'clock in the morning, and in about five minutes returned with a verdict—Guilty.

The trial lasted nearly twenty-two hours.

The jury were upwards of forty minutes considering the case of Downie: the majority agreeing among themselves that he was guilty, they reconciled themselves to this verdict at last, by unanimously consenting to recommend him to mercy, which they did in a very strong manner.

Shortly after the following awful sentence of the Court was passed upon these unfortunate men:

“Robert Watt and David Downie, you have been found guilty of high treason by your peers. The sentence of the Court is, therefore, that you be taken to the place whence you came; from thence you shall be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 15th of October, there to hang by your necks till you are both dead; your bowels to be taken out, and cast in your faces; and each of your bodies to be cut in four quarters, to be at the disposal of his Majesty; and the Lord have mercy on your souls!”

The unfortunate prisoners received the dreadful sentence with much firmness and composure, and were immediately conducted to the Castle.

Robert Watt was ordered for execution, but a respite came for David Downie. As soon as it was intimated to Downie, he started as from a dream, and exclaimed—“Glory to God, and thanks to the king for his goodness! I will pray for him as long as I live.” After which tears of gratitude flowed. He was transported for life.

About half past one o'clock on the 15th of October the two junior magistrates, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. the Rev. Principal Baird, and a number of constables, attended by the town-officers, and the city-guard

guard lining the streets, walked in procession from the Council-chamber to the east end of Castle-hill, when a message was sent to the sheriffs in the Castle that they were there waiting to receive the prisoner.

The prisoner was immediately placed in a hurdle, with his back to the horse; and the executioner, with a large axe in his hand, took his seat opposite him, at the further end of the hurdle.

The procession then set out from the Castle, the sheriffs walking in front, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. a number of county constables surrounding the hurdle, and the military keeping off the crowd. In this manner they proceeded until they joined the magistrates, when the military returned to the Castle, and then the procession was conducted in the following order:

The City Constables.

Town Officers, bare-headed.

Bailie Lothian and Bailie Dalrymple.

Rev. Principal Baird.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk and Mr. Sheriff Davidson.

A number of County Constables.

THE HURDLE,

Painted black, and drawn by a white Horse.

A number of County Constables.

The city-guard lined the streets, to keep off the multitude.

When they had reached the Tolbooth door the prisoner was taken from the hurdle, and conducted into the prison, where a considerable time was spent in devotional exercises.

The prisoner then came out upon the platform, attended by the magistrates, sheriffs, Principal Baird, &c. Some time was then spent in prayer and singing psalms; after which the prisoner mounted the drop-board, and was soon launched into eternity.

When the body was taken down it was stretched upon a table, and the executioner, with two blows of the axe, severed off the head, which was received into a basket, and then held up to the multitude, while the executioner called

called aloud "There is the head of a traitor, and so perish all traitors!"

The body and head were then placed in a coffin, and removed.

Never was any execution conducted with more solemnity and order. The procession advanced with slow step, and the prisoner exhibited a most melancholy spectacle. He held a Bible in his hand; his eyes remained in a fixed posture, upwards; and he was not observed to make one movement, or cast a single glance upon the multitude. He was much emaciated, and his countenance so pale, that, while on his way to the place of execution, he appeared almost lifeless; but when he came upon the platform he seemed to be somewhat revived, and behaved himself during the awful solemnity with due resignation and humble fortitude.

The impression his situation had made upon himself seemed truly astonishing, as those who had ever seen him before declared they could not have known him to be the same person. His appearance was dirty, muffled up in a great coat; and he shewed signs of peculiar agitation and remorse for the crime for which he was then going to suffer.

The surrounding multitude, during the execution of the awful proceeding, did not discover any other emotion than is usual upon occasions of any other executions. The town-guard, attended by the constables, lined the streets.

Robert Watt was born in the shire of Kincardine, and was, at the time of his execution, about thirty-six years old. He was the natural son of a Mr. Barclay, a gentleman of fortune and respectability; but, like most other children of illegitimate parentage, he was brought up and educated under the name of his mother. He was, at about ten years of age, sent to Perth, where he received a very good education. At sixteen he engaged himself with a lawyer at Perth; but, being of a religious disposition, he was disgusted at this profession, and soon withdrew from the desk of his master.

Soon after he went to Edinburgh, and engaged as a clerk in a paper warehouse, where he lived happily and respectably

respectably for some years. His only complaint was a deficiency of salary.

Having a desire to share in the profits as well as the toils of the business, he wrote to his father, and prevailed upon him to assist him with some money, to enable him to procure a partnership with his master.

He then made proposals to the above purpose: these were, however, rejected by his employer. Being provided with money, he entered into the wine and spirit trade. His success in business continued very promising until the commencement of the war, by which he was almost ruined. At this period his acquaintance with the Friends of the People commenced.

Several other leaders of this conspiracy in Scotland were seized. Of those were convicted the Reverend T. Fishe Palmer, William Skirving, Thomas Muir, Maurice Margarot, and Joseph Gerald, who were transported to Botany-bay. Numbers, to avoid the avenging arm of justice, fled to the United States of America, where, with impunity, they disseminated their treason, and poured out volleys of abuse against their native land.

These renegadoes were no sooner landed in a new world than they rallied round the footstool of faction there by commencing editors of, and scribblers in, newspapers, which swarm in that boasted land of liberty. In their base columns they extolled the murderous revolutionists of France, and laboured to incense Americans against their own country. It is fit these apostates should be pointed out. John Thompson, of Scotland, printed one of these inflammatory sheets at Richmond, in Virginia: Matthew Duane, of Ireland, another in Philadelphia. John Dinmore, late an apothecary at Walton, in Norfolk, planted his literary annoyance* in Columbia,

* This inflammatory sheet he called "The Expositor." In order to give the reader an idea of the infamy of the abandoned scribblers, we shall quote a note from Mr. Janson's History of America. Speaking of Dinmore, he says, "Among the vile scurrility of his Expositor, last summer, was the following: After noticing the introduction of the American minister, Mr. Monroe, to the king, he adds, 'For once an honest man had appeared at the Court of St. James's.'

Another paper printed by Mr. S. Snowden, at the same place, and preferring

bia, the seat of the American government, and, for his extraordinary scurrility against England, the Gallic-American President, Jefferson, made him state printer, and (heaven forefend!) a justice of the American peace. Cooper, the bosom friend of the hoary apostate Priestley, the bitterest foe we had in the new world, so greatly misused the press, that the country of his adoption threw him into a prison.

Inferior scribblers against Britain are almost without number.

EDWARD COOKE and HENRY PARISH,

(Soldiers in the Oxfordshire Militia,)

CONDEMNED AT A GENERAL COURT MARTIAL, AND SHOT AT BRIGHT-
HELMSTONE, JUNE 12, 1795, FOR MUTINY.

As we have already described the nature of courts martial, we shall immediately proceed to shew the solemn ceremony of a military execution.

From the hour of four in the morning of the day of execution the whole line of encampment were ordered to hold themselves in readiness: at five, however, in the evening, the officers were given to understand that the execution of these two unfortunate men, Edward Cooke and Henry Parish, was countermanded for that day.

The cause of this short respite was attributed to the absence of the Prince of Wales's 10th regiment of light dragoons, which did not march into the town till nine o'clock in the morning, and of course could not pitch their tents till late in the evening.

When this regiment was seen on the march to its station all hopes of an expected reprieve seemed entirely

ferring England to France, makes this observation upon the paragraph: 'It is, no doubt, difficult for an honest man, in the doctor's (apothecary Dinmore's) estimation of the word, to get admission there; yet he cannot have forgotten that he himself was within a cable's length of having his name announced to his Britannic Majesty—not by Sir Stephen Cotterell, but by the Recorder of London and Ordinary of Newgate, as joint Masters of the Ceremonies.'

to vanish : the most respectable people, however, of the place, took this opportunity of one day's delay to repeat their petitions in favour of the two men ; but all proved ineffectual, for, early on the 13th, the Oxfordshire Militia (the regiment to which the mutineers belonged) began their march from the barracks at Blachington to this place, to be made awful spectators of their unhappy comrades' punishment, and to be their executioners ! At four o'clock the whole were ordered to accompany them from the ground to Colestoun Bottom, at which place they arrived about five. The six men (for there were thirteen mutineers) that were sentenced to be flogged proceeded afterwards in a covered waggon, guarded by a strong escort, which was composed of select men, picked from every regiment in the line : the two condemned to be shot followed in the rear in an open cart, attended by the Rev. Mr. Dring, and guarded by a second escort, under the command of Captain Leigh, of the 10th regiment of light dragoons, and one of the captains belonging to the Lancashire Fencibles. When they arrived, however, at the winding road which leads to Colestoun Vale, and which is surrounded by an eminence, both the escorts were commanded to halt. The six men sentenced to be flogged were then taken from the covered waggon, and having been marched through the whole line, who were under arms to receive them, they were brought back to a whipping-post which was fixed in the centre of the different regiments. The drummers selected to flog them were men belonging to their own corps. Three of them received three hundred lashes each : the remainder were postponed, as, from their long durance, and consequent weakness, the surgeon of the regiment pronounced that they could suffer no more. The fourth was then stripped, and, after being tied to the flogging-post, was reprieved ; as were his two other comrades.

This part of the distressing ceremony being gone through, the two unfortunate men condemned to be shot were taken from the cart, and marched, as the others had been, up the line, with this difference only, of being conducted also through part of the outer one, which was composed of the Prince's regiment, and the Lancashire and Cinque-port

Fencibles. They were then marched to the front of the Oxfordshire Militia, where their coffins stood to receive their bodies; the artillery being planted on the right, with lighted matches, in the rear of the Oxfordshire, to prevent any mutiny, if attempted, and the whole height commanded by 2000 cavalry.

Cooke and Parish, being conducted to the fatal spot, exchanged a few words with the clergyman, and then knelt with the greatest composure and firmness on their coffins. The first time, however, they knelt, it was done the wrong way; but, being placed in a proper situation, they put the caps over their eyes, and received their death from a delinquent platoon of twelve of their own regiment, at the distance only of six paces. One of them was not quite dead when he fell, and was therefore shot through the head with a pistol. This, however, was not the last awful ceremony the line had to witness; for, to conclude the dreadful tragedy, every regiment on the ground was ordered to file off past the bodies before they were suffered to be enclosed in their coffins. The whole scene was impressively awful beyond any spectacle of the kind ever exhibited.

No disturbance whatever resulted from the above melancholy affair: every thing was conducted with the greatest solemnity and order: the awe and silence that reigned on the occasion infused a terror, mingled with an equal degree of pity, that was distressing beyond conception. The Oxfordshire Militia naturally experienced more afflicting sensations than any other regiment on the ground.

Cooke and Parish were both young men, and behaved with uncommon firmness and resignation: they marched through the lines with a steady step, and regarded their coffins with an undaunted eye. The former was called Captain Cooke, from his having headed the Oxfordshire soldiers, at the fatal period of the mutiny.

TIMOTHY

TIMOTHY DUNN, EDWARD JONES, MATTHEW RILEY, AND DENIS CONROY,

(Soldiers,)

EXECUTED MARCH 21, 1796, FOR MURDER

THIS, among numberless other mischiefs entailed upon the tutelar saint of Ireland, is an instance of the dreadful licentiousness of the lower order of that country, when heated with strong drink.

The 17th of March is St. Patrick's day ; and so copious are the libations of his votaries, on each eve of this their festival, that, in all parts wherever the lower class wander, they contrive to get drunk ; and then fall upon unguarded strangers, and beat, and sometimes murder, them.

These outrages, they will tell you, were committed for the honour of St. Patrick ; and so deeply rooted is this vile habit in them, that, while under the accursed influence, it must end in what they call " a row ;" and, if that cannot be effected among strangers, they generally fall upon each other.

The unfortunate Irishmen, the subject of this inquiry, were soldiers, and had lately returned from a four-years' service in foreign parts.

The regiment to which they belonged was ordered into winter quarters in Leicestershire, Loughborough, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and towns adjacent.

On the evening of St. Patrick's day, in the year 1796, in a state of intoxication, they sallied out, and attacked every one they met, whom, without any cause being shewn, they beat without mercy. At length they met a poor boatman, of the name of Henry Hutchinson, whom they murdered.

They were apprehended next day, the 18th, and, the judges being on the circuit at Leicester, they were tried on the 19th, and executed on the 21st ; thus allowing them but three days for repentance.

A short time before they were taken out of prison for execution a remarkable circumstance happened to Timothy Dunn :—A regiment of dragoons passing through Leicester,

cester, one of the private troopers, of the name of Dunn, hearing that his namesake lay under sentence of death, was led, through curiosity, to see the culprit. On being admitted into the condemned cell, what must have been his astonishment and grief on finding a brother whom he had not seen or heard of for many years !

The whole of these unfortunate soldiers died repenting their crime, and imploring forgiveness of the Almighty.

We cannot dismiss this case without exhorting our fellow-subjects born in Ireland to observe moderation on this day. Their excesses serve only to procure them enemies, to disgrace their saint, and offend their Maker.

ELIZABETH HALL,

CONVICTED, FINED, AND IMPRISONED, FOR CRUELTY TO HER FEMALE APPRENTICES.

WE have now before us another woman of the demoniac disposition of Mother Brownrigg, and who, like her, might have satiated the utmost extent of her ferocity, had she not been detected while the children yet lived.

She was prosecuted by the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, at the quarter sessions for Surrey, for assaulting Jane Bray and Sophia Ingram, her apprentices.

Jane Bray deposed that she was bound apprentice to Elizabeth Hall, a pin-header,* on the 5th of April, 1796.

The prisoner for a little while used her and Sophia very well, but after some time began to beat and kick them about, and would drag them up and down stairs, making use of the most horrible expressions. She always kept a rod soaking in brine, with which she used to beat them on their bare skin when they were undressed to go to bed: if she could not find the rod immediately she would beat them with her fist, and sometimes with the kettle-ladle. They both did as much work as they could ; but their mistress made them begin at four o'clock in the morning,

* Some of our readers will be surprised to hear that there are several different branches of business in the making of a pin.

and continue close at it until ten or eleven at night, always beating them for no particular cause, and very frequently going out without leaving them either a dinner or supper. They never had a belly-full: sometimes they had nothing all day long but six potatoes and a little salt for their dinner.

Ann Harland served her apprenticeship to Hall, and wrought there three or four weeks with the children. She described them as very good girls, but rather weakly, and said they earned their mistress from 1s. to 14d. daily, which was as much as she could do when she had served twelve months of her time. She corroborated the evidence of the child as to the beating and hours of labour, which, she said, were unusually long, as the custom of the trade is to work only twelve hours.

Catharine Heman worked also for Hall, and generally carried her work home to the shop. On calling one day, the mistress was out, as she learned from the children, drinking. When she came to the door and knocked, the children begged her, for God's sake, to go to the door, as their mistress would knock them down as she came in. The witness accordingly went to the door, and, as soon as the prisoner was admitted, she knocked the witness down. She then went down stairs, and brought up a board, with which she beat the children very severely. Bray had a large lump on her shoulder, and the little girl Ingram's arms and hands were so bruised by continual beating as to be scarcely able to hold her work.

The beadle of Bermondsey deposed that he found the children straying in the street between nine and ten at night. He took them home to the prisoner: on his going to leave them there the children cried, and said they should be murdered. The mistress then said she would not take them in at all, as that was the case. He then took them to the master of the workhouse; and the parish, much to their credit, instituted the present prosecution.

The evidence is given as it relates to both, though the assaults were tried separately, as the same witnesses were on both. Jane Bray was only eleven years of age, and Sophia Ingram only nine.

The

The jury found the prisoner guilty of both indictments, and the Chairman passed sentence that she should pay a fine of 3s. 4d. and be imprisoned in the House of Correction six months for each offence : too lenient a punishment.

REBECCA HOWARD,

EXECUTED AT NORWICH, AUGUST 27, 1797, FOR THE MURDER OF HER
BASTARD CHILD.

THE admirable admonitions in the dying words of this penitent are far beyond all comments which we can offer on her unfortunate case ; and we will therefore only add our sincere hope that young females will imprint them on their hearts.

At the Norwich assizes, August, 1797, Rebecca Howard was tried for, and convicted of, the wilful murder of her bastard child. Her behaviour during trial was firm and collected, but while the jury were deliberating on the verdict she swooned away.

Previous to her execution she conducted herself with the greatest propriety. On Wednesday, at about twelve o'clock, she was conveyed from the city gaol to the castle ditches, attended by the chaplain and a preacher of the Methodist society. When arrived at the gallows, after singing a psalm with peculiar emphasis, she addressed herself to the spectators, exhorting them to a due observance of the sabbath, and to place all their confidence in God, which, if they did, all other things would be added to them. She then sat down.

Being asked if she was ready, she said " Stop, I want to say something else." She then earnestly cautioned young folks of her own sex to avoid temptation, and to be on their guard against deceitful men, who had brought her to an ignominious death. She acknowledged the justness of her sentence, thanked the gaoler for his humanity and attention, and expressed her forgiveness of all her enemies. Having taken leave of a young man and woman with an affectionate kiss, she exclaimed " Lord
have

have mercy on me! God bless you all!" and was immediately launched into eternity.

After hanging the usual time her body was delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

MARTIN CLENCH and JAMES MACKLEY,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JUNE 5, 1797, FOR MURDER.

THIS is another case wherein, we greatly fear, the unfortunate men died innocent of the crime alleged against them.

There is, indeed, too much reason to suppose that the young lady, the principal witness against them, mistook their persons; and the sequel to this account of the unfortunate transaction will, perhaps, incline the reader to be of our opinion. These are melancholy reflections; but it is our duty, on all occasions, to state the proceedings with truth and impartiality.

Sydney Fryer, Esq. a gentleman of considerable property, on Sunday, May 7, 1797, called, by appointment, on his cousin Miss Ann Fryer, who resided in Shepperd-street, Oxford-street, in order to take a walk with her into the environs of London, to pay a visit to their aunt. When they had proceeded across the fields to the back part of Islington workhouse they heard, as they thought, a female voice in distress; upon which Mr. Fryer, contrary to his cousin's advice, leaped over the hedge into the field whence the voice seemed to proceed; but, instead of seeing a woman, he met with three men, who, upon his rashly drawing his tuck-stick (the sword of which dropped out), fired, and wounded him a little above the left eye. He fell into a small pond. One of the villains took the watch out of his pocket, and a purse from the lady: another took her cloak. Mr. Fryer, being removed to a public house, died in two hours after.

Several were taken up on suspicion, and strictly examined in the presence of Miss Fryer, but dismissed for want of evidence. On the 27th of May the Worship;
street

street officers apprehended Clinch, Mackley, and one Smith, a chip-hat maker ; but, no criminality appearing in the latter, he was discharged, and the other two fully committed.

The prisoners were most impartially tried by Mr. Justice Grose. They had four counsel, Messrs. Const, Knapp, Alley, and Gurney; so that no ingenuity was wanting to plead their case effectually to the jury. Indeed there was no positive evidence except Miss Fryer's, who swore to the identity of the two prisoners' persons ; so that the learned Judge, in his address to the jury, said :

“ Gentlemen,

“ I will just state to you, in this case, one observation, and I would wish you to carry that observation in your minds throughout. You will find that this case will very much depend upon the evidence of the lady who has been examined. It generally happens that the person robbed is, at the time of the robbery, exceedingly agitated ; and, unless they are acquainted with the party robbing beforehand, it is sometimes extremely difficult afterwards to swear to the person. We all know that an act of this sort is attended with great terrors, particularly if the person happens to be a female : one does not at all wonder at it, and, for that reason, where there is only one person in company who can speak to the fact, surely we must hear the evidence with great attention and distrust, not as to the honesty and fairness of the witness, but as to that sort of uncertainty which the human mind is frequently under in cases of fear, which renders it less susceptible of correct impressions ; for which reason I always look for, and am very happy when I find, some corroborating circumstances to shew that the person robbed is not mistaken as to the person of the party robbing ; and if part of the property can be traced, or if any other person swears to the persons of the prisoners, or if any body can be found that can swear that the persons charged with the robbery were at or about the spot at the time, all these circumstances of corroboration very much deserve, nay, indeed, require, the attention of a jury.”

The

The jury, having retired for half an hour, returned with a verdict—"Guilty."

These two men were accordingly both executed, and their bodies were publicly exposed in a stable, in Little Bridge-street, near Apothecaries' Hall, Surgeons' Hall being let to the Lieutenancy of the county, for the accommodation of the militia.

A little before their caps were drawn over their eyes, by some improper management, the platform suddenly went down with the two clergymen, the executioner, and his man. The Catholic priest who attended Clench, being very lusty, suffered most, but fortunately not materially. When they died, most people were of opinion that their fate was just; but a short time after, the confessions of three separate criminals, who could have had no interest in taking the crime upon themselves, threw a different light upon the transaction, and recalled to mind the strong assertions which Clench and Mackay had made of their innocence; for Clench, upon retiring from the bar, returned thanks to the Court for the fairness of his trial, but observed, (though in a rough way,) that, though they were condemned to die, and be teased afterwards, alluding to their dissection, they were no more guilty of murder than their prosecutrix.

One Burton Wood, who was afterwards executed at Kennington Common, and another, while under sentence of death, wrote a letter to Carpenter Smith, Esq. magistrate of Surrey, desiring it to be published; accordingly it appeared in several papers, declaring the innocence of Clench and Mackay, for that they were, with another, not then in custody, the murderers; soon after, the third man suffered, for another offence, at Reading gallows, and made the same confession. His name was Timms, and he died, with another whose travelling appellation was "Leather Rags," alias William Emery.

Mackay was brought up a pressman, and worked at the Logographic Press. He was steady to his employ; but Clench was much addicted to gaming; he had been very virtuously brought up by his parents, but company and the love of gaiety occasioned his deviation from honesty. In the early part of his life he had followed the business

of a butcher; he afterwards sold books in Bishopsgate-street.

From the fate of these unhappy young men, for they neither had seen more than twenty-two years, may be well illustrated that old and true adage,

“ Evil communications corrupt good manners.”

Clench had been at the bar before in the December sessions, when he was acquitted, though positively sworn to at Bow-street.

JAMES HADFIELD,

FOR SHOOTING AT HIS MAJESTY AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE, ON THURSDAY,
MAY 15, 1800.

THE trial of James Hadfield, for high treason, came on in the Court of King's Bench, on Thursday, the 26th of June. The indictment being read, the prisoner pleaded “ Not Guilty,” and the Attorney-General addressed the jury at considerable length.

Mr. Joseph Craig was the first witness examined: he is a musician, and saw Hadfield above all the rest, with a pistol in his hand, pointed at his Majesty; it was instantly fired and dropped down: he assisted at dragging the prisoner over the rails, into the music-room: Mr. Sheridan and the Duke of York came in; he said, “ God bless your Royal Highness, I like you very well, you are a good fellow. This is not the worst that is brewing.”

Mr. John Holroyd sat next the prisoner, spoke to him, and remarked he was a pitiable object; saw a pistol presented across his face, and immediately discharged; he assisted in securing him.

Mr. J. Parkinson, a musician, was next examined: he confirmed what the first witness had deposed; and being asked if the situation was a good one for firing at his Majesty, he replied, that the prisoner could not have chosen a better.

Mr. Wright, the fourth witness, was in the first row
next

next the orchestra; he heard the report of a pistol as his Majesty entered his box, turned round, and caught the prisoner by the collar. A young lady, who sat behind, immediately pointed to the ground, where he saw and picked up the pistol, which he produced in Court.

Miss Elizabeth Ormeston deposed, that she sat on the third row, but could not say whether it was at the first or second bow to the audience from his Majesty the pistol was fired, but immediately he threw down the pistol.

Mr. Law, one of the counsel for the prosecution, here desired that his Royal Highness the Duke of York might be called; upon hearing which, the prisoner, in a paroxysm of enthusiasm, cried out, "God bless the Duke, I love him." The Court, seeing his agitation, immediately gave directions that he should be permitted to sit down; and Mr. Kirby, the keeper of Newgate, (who all the time sat next him,) told him he had permission of the Court to sit down, which he did, and remained composed during the remainder of the trial.

The Duke of York was present at the examination; remarked at the time that he knew the prisoner, that he had been one of his orderly men. The prisoner said, "He knew his own life was forfeited; he regretted the fate of his wife only; he would be only two days longer from his wife;" said, "the worst is not come yet." His Royal Highness said, the prisoner appeared to be perfectly collected. After his Majesty had retired, his Royal Highness directed a search to be made in the king's box, where a hole was discovered, evidently made by the impression of a shot, fourteen inches from his Majesty's head. It had perforated the pillar. In searching below some slugs were found; by the smell they had been recently fired off. Mr. Erskine asked his Royal Highness, if the most loyal and brave men were not usually selected to be the orderly men? His Royal Highness answered, that the most tried and trusty men were appointed as orderly men. When the prisoner was asked what could induce him to commit so atrocious an act, he said, he was tired of life, and thought he should have been killed.

The evidence for the prosecution being closed, Mr. Erskine addressed the jury at considerable length.

Major Ryan, of the 15th Light Dragoons, in which the prisoner was a private, Hercules M'Gill, private in the same regiment, and John Lane, of the Guards, all knew the prisoner, and deposed to different acts of his insanity.

Mr. Cline, surgeon; Dr. Crichton, physician; and Dr. Letherne, surgeon to the 15th regiment, as professional gentlemen, gave testimony to their belief of the prisoner's insanity.

Captain Wilson, and Chris. Lawton, of the 15th Light Dragoons; David Hadfield, brother to the prisoner; Mary Gore, sister-in-law to the prisoner; Catharine Harrison, and Elizabeth Roberts, detailed different acts of insanity, particularly on the day previous to and on which he committed the crime for which he stood indicted.

The prisoner was found to be insane.

Ravillac, who stabbed King Henry IV. of France, while in his coach, and surrounded by his guards, was tortured to death in the following inhuman manner:

At the place of execution his right hand, with which he gave the fatal blow, was put into a furnace flaming with fire and brimstone, and there consumed. His flesh was pulled from his bones with red-hot pincers; boiling oil, rosin, and brimstone, were poured upon the wounds, and melted lead upon his navel. To close the scene of horror, four horses were fastened to the four quarters of his body, which were torn asunder.

He declared to the last moment that he had no accomplices, and that the only motive which impelled him to act the regicide was, because the king tolerated two religions in France.

His parents were banished their country, never more to return, on pain of immediate death; and his whole kindred, nay, every individual bearing the name, were ordered to renounce it; so that the name of Ravillac should never more be heard of in France.

MARTIN LAAS,

(*A Norwegian,*)

EXECUTED AT MAIDSTONE, FOR MURDER.

VILLAINS, lurking in secret, ready to fall upon men, in order to rob them, often commit murder. The horrid impulse generally arises from the fear of opposition, or the dread of an appearance against them, when arraigned at the bar of justice. But when we find that a man cowardly and brutally embrues his hands in the blood of an unoffending defenceless woman, our nature is appalled, and we vent our most bitter execrations on the monster who commits so foul a deed.

At the assizes at Maidstone, in Kent, not yet a year after the fatal calendar of Newgate, at the sessions when the Recorder of London gave his learned and humane advice to the condemned malefactors, one hundred and fourteen prisoners were tried for felonious practices, and fifteen sentenced to death—a greater number, we are told, than ever before appeared at that bar of justice.

The most infamous of those was Martin Laas, a subject of the king of Denmark, born at Bergen, in Norway. He was a sea-faring man, and, when a boy, came to England in a Danish trading ship. Deserting the service of his employer, he entered on board the British fleet, and had served as an able seaman several years, two of which, we find, was on board the *Fame*, of 74 guns, one of the fleet under the command of the gallant Rodney, in the West-Indies.

In this culprit we have another deplorable instance of dismissing seamen, often penniless, at the end of that war, in which they often have conquered.

When foreigners enlist under our banners, and having served our purpose, ought not government, at least, to send them back to their own homes? But such traits of common justice are forgot, amid the more mighty concerns of our ministers. Where, then, in such cases, is *Humanity* to beg her boon?

Such was the case of Martin Laas; he was a distressed foreigner,

foreigner, who had fought our battles, and, his services no longer wanted, misfortune overtook him; but hunger, which the proverb truly says "will break through stone walls," needs not to impel cruelty.

It appeared in evidence, and from his own confession, that the prisoner was sitting on the side of the public road, when a beautiful young country woman passed him near the Halfway-house, near Sandwich, of the name of Mary Bax. At the instant, the devil, he said, whispered him to kill and rob her. He therefore followed her, and had proceeded near half a mile, when he asked her the road to Sheerness. The unsuspecting maid courteously answered, that it was a great way to Sheerness. He then said, he had no money, and must have some to bear his expenses; to which the deceased answered, that she had none.

He then walked by her side, and on passing a ditch, pushed her into it, and jumped upon her, into mud and water up to his middle, and thus smothered her. He then took a bundle which she carried in her hands, and her shoes from her feet, with which he made off through the marshes, across the country towards Dover. Some of the articles which he had taken from the unhappy woman were found upon him.

During his trial, he behaved with unparalleled audacity, insulting the witnesses, and mocking the Court.

When the jury found him guilty, he gave three cheers, and became so riotous that the judge ordered him to be seized and chained to the floor, until the time arrived for his execution.

He showed no remorse when he confessed his barbarous crime.

He was executed with John Huntley, for murdering his wife on Wistwell Downs, whose body was dissected; but that of Laas was buried under the gallows, as the surgeons would not accept of it.

Eight more, committed for capital offences, died in prison; and William Hill Fairchild, for horse-stealing, murdered himself.



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GOVERNOR WALL.

JOSEPH WALL, ESQ.

(FORMERLY GOVERNOR OF GOREE,)

Executed January 28, 1802, near twenty years after committing the crime, for ordering a soldier to be so unmercifully flogged, as to occasion his death.

MR. WALL was descended from a good family in Ireland, and entered into the army at an early age. He was of a severe and rather unaccommodating temper; nor was he much liked among the officers.

Mr. Wall was Lieutenant-Governor of Sene-Gambia, but acted as chief, the first appointment being vacant. It was an office he held but a short time, not more than two years; during which he was accused with the wilful murder of Benjamin Armstrong, by ordering him to receive eight hundred lashes, on the 10th of July, 1782, of which he died in five days afterwards. His emoluments were very considerable, as, besides his military appointments, he was Superintendent of Trade to the Colony.

His family were originally Roman Catholics; but of course he conformed to the Protestant Church, or he could not have held his commission.

As soon as the account of the murder reached the Board of Admiralty, a reward was offered for his apprehension; but having evaded justice in 1784, he lived on the Continent, sometimes in France, and sometimes in Italy, but mostly in France, under an assumed name, where he lived respectably, and was admitted into good company.

He particularly kept company with the officers of his own country, who served in the French army, and was well known at the Scotch and Irish Colleges in Paris.

In 1797, he returned to this country, as if by a kind of fatality. He was frequently advised, by the friend who procured him the lodging, to leave the country again, and questioned as to the motive for remaining; he never attempted, however, to give any; but appeared, even at the time when he was so studiously concealing himself, to have

have a distant intention of making a surrender, in order to take his trial. It is very evident his mind was not at ease, and that he was incapable of taking any firm resolution either one way or another. And even the manner in which he did give himself up shewed a singular want of determination, leaving it to chance whether the minister should send for him or not; for, rather than go to deliver himself up, he wrote to say, "he was ready to do so"—a less becoming, but not a less dangerous mode of encountering danger. He was allied, by marriage, to a noble family; and his wife visited him frequently when in his concealment at Lambeth; and since that time he lived in Upper Thornhaugh-street, Bedford-square, when he was apprehended. It is most probable, that had he not written to the Secretary of State, the matter had been so long forgotten, that he would never have been any way molested.

At the commencement of the trial, the prisoner said he was very hard of hearing, and therefore requested that he might be allowed to sit by his counsel. The Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Chief Justice in the commission, with whom appeared Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, said to the prisoner, "that is perfectly impossible; there is a regular place appointed by the law for persons in your situation; we can make no distinction of the sort you desire; that would be invidious." It was proved by the witnesses that Armstrong was far from being undutiful in his behaviour; he was, however, tied to the gun-carriage; black men, brought there for the purpose, not the drummers, who in the ordinary course of things would have had to flog this man, supposing him to have deserved flogging; but black men were ordered to inflict on Armstrong the punishment ordered. Each took his turn, and gave this unhappy sufferer twenty-five lashes, until he had received the number of eight hundred; and the instrument with which the punishment was inflicted was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, which is the usual instrument, but a piece of rope of a greater thickness, and which was much more severe than the cat-o'-nine-tails. The rope was exhibited in evidence. While this punishment was inflicting the prisoner urged the black men to be severe; he said, among other things, "cut him to the heart and to the
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the liver.” Armstrong, the subject of this punishment, applied to him for mercy, but the observation of the defendant on this occasion was, “that the sick season was coming on, which, together with the punishment, would do for him.” After receiving a great number of lashes, that is eight hundred, this poor creature was conducted to the hospital. He was in a situation in which it was probable his death might be the consequence; he declared, in his dying moments, he was punished without any trial, and without ever being so much as asked whether he had any thing to say in his defence.

The prisoner in his defence urged, that the deceased was guilty of mutiny—that the punishment was not so severe as reported, but that the deceased was suffered to drink strong spirits when in the hospital.

Several witnesses were called on the part of the prisoner, particularly Mrs. Lacy, widow of the captain who succeeded Mr. Wall, and Mary Falkner, who not only agreed with him in the outrageous conduct of the men, and the violent language they used, but both positively swore that Lewis, the first witness against the prisoner, was not the orderly serjeant on that day. John Falkner, Peter Williams, and some others who were present, were also examined, and whose testimonies went in full corroboration of the account given by the prisoner, and so far went to his justification; but which in most material points was in direct contradiction to the evidence which had been given by the witnesses for the crown.

The jury, after being out of court some time, pronounced a verdict of “guilty.”

The Recorder then proceeded to pass sentence of death upon him: that he be executed the following morning, and that his body be afterwards delivered to be anatomized according to the statute.

Mr. Wall seemed sensibly affected by the sentence, but said nothing more than requesting the Court would allow him a little time to prepare himself for death.

On the 21st of January, a respite was sent from Lord Pelham’s office, deferring his execution until the 25th.

On the 24th, he was further respited till the 28th. During the time of his confinement, previous to trial, he occu-

pied the apartment which was formerly the residence of Mr. Ridgway, the bookseller. His wife lived with him for the last fortnight: although he was allowed two hours a day, from twelve to two, to walk in the yard, he did not once embrace this indulgence; and during his whole confinement, never went out of his room, except into the lobby to consult his counsel.

He lived well, and was at times very facetious, easy in his manners, and pleasant in conversation; but during the night he frequently sat up in his bed and sung psalms, overheard by his fellow-prisoner. He had not many visitors; his only attendant was a prisoner, who was appointed for that purpose by the turnkey.

After trial he did not return to his old apartment, but was conducted to a cell; he was so far favoured as not to have irons put on, but a person was employed as a guard to watch him during the night, to prevent him doing violence to himself. His bed was brought to him in the cell, on which he threw himself in an agony of mind, saying, it was his intention not to rise until they called him on the fatal morning.

The sheriffs were particularly pointed and precise in their orders, with respect to confining him to the usual diet of bread and water preparatory to the awful event. This order was scrupulously fulfilled. The prisoner, during a part of the night, slept, owing to fatigue and perturbation of mind. The next morning his wife applied, but was refused admittance without an order from one of the sheriffs. She applied to Mr. Sheriff Cox, who attended her to the prison.

From the time of the first respite, until 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, he did not cease to entertain hopes of his safety. The interest made to save him was very great. The whole of Wednesday occupied the great law officers; the judges met at the chancellor's in the afternoon. The conference lasted upwards of three hours.

About a little after four o'clock, Thursday the 28th, the scaffold began to be erected by torch-light, and was completed soon after seven, except the black hanging, which is not permitted to be displayed, nor the prison-bell to toll, for the departure of any one convicted of murder.

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The prisoner had an affecting interview with his wife, the Hon. Mrs. Wall, the night before, from whom he was painfully separated about eleven o'clock. This disconsolate and affectionate lady, unremitting in her solicitude, caused the colonel to write a note to Mr. Kirby, the gaoler, about nine o'clock, requesting that she might be permitted to remain in the cell until eleven; thus cordially manifesting her fond but delusive hopes to the very latest moment.

Mr. Kirby, with a feeling of humanity highly credible to his character, readily complied with this request. But, greatly unfortunate lady! she had not any acquisition of reasonable hope at the hour of her departure. Eleven o'clock came, and she saw the end of all her earthly joys! Numberless tender embraces now took place: the loving wife reluctantly departed, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed with tears, while the unfortunate husband declared that he could now, with Christian fortitude, submit to his unhappy fate.—During the greater part of the night he slept but little.

About four o'clock in the morning his sleep was, however, observed to become sound, and, according to the best recollection of his attendant, he continued in this sleep rather more than an hour; so that he could not have heard the fatal machine in its passage to the debtors' door. His voice preserved its usual strength and tone to the end; and, though very particular in his questions respecting the machinery in every part, yet he spoke of his approaching execution and death with perfect calmness. At half after six in the morning, his prison attendant going to his cell, was asked by him, "whether the noise he heard was not that of erecting his scaffold?" He was humanely replied to in the negative.

The Ordinary, Dr. Ford, soon after entered, when the prisoner devoutly joined him for some time in prayer. They then passed on to an anti-room, when the Governor asked, "whether it was a fine morning?" On being answered in the affirmative, he said, "the time hangs heavily: I am anxious for the close of this scene." One of the officers then proceeded to bind his arms with a cord, for which he extended them out firmly; but, recollecting

himself, he said, "I beg your pardon a moment;" and putting his hand in his pocket, he drew out two white handkerchiefs, one of which he bound over his temples, so as nearly to conceal his eyes, over which he placed a white cap, and then put on a round hat; the other handkerchief he kept between his hands. He then observed, "the cord cuts me; but it's no matter." On which Dr. Ford desired it to be loosened, for which the prisoner bowed, and thanked him.

As the clock struck eight, the door was thrown open, at which Sheriff Cox and his officers appeared. The Governor, approaching him, said, "I attend you, sir;" and the procession to the scaffold, over the debtors' door immediately succeeded. He had no sooner ascended it, accompanied by the Ordinary, than three successive shouts from an innumerable populace, the brutal effusion of one common sentiment, evidently deprived him of the small portion of fortitude which he had summoned up.

He bowed his head under the extreme pressure of ignominy, when the hangman put the halter over it, but took it off again to replace it; this done, the Governor stooped forward, and spoke to the Ordinary, who, no doubt at his request, pulled the cap over the lower part of the face, when in an instant, without waiting for any signal, the platform dropped, and he was launched into eternity!—From the knot of the rope turning round to the back of the neck, and his legs not being pulled, at his particular request, he was suspended in convulsive agony for more than a quarter of an hour.

After hanging a full hour, his body was cut down, put into a cart, and immediately conveyed to a building in Cow-cross-street, to be dissected.

He was dressed in a mixed coloured loose coat, with a black collar, swan-down waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and white silk stockings.

He appeared a miserable and emaciated object, never having quitted the bed of his cell from the day of condemnation till the morning of his execution.

The public indignation had never been so high since the death of Mrs. Brownrigg.

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The body of the unfortunate Governor was not exposed to public view, as usual in such cases.

Mr. Belfour, Secretary to the Surgeons' Company, applied to Lord Kenyon, to know whether such exposure was necessary : and, finding that the forms of dissection only were required, the body, after those forms had passed, was consigned to the relations of the unhappy man, upon their paying fifty guineas to the Philanthropic Society.

His remains were interred in the Church-yard of St. Pancras.

EDWARD POWELL,

(Master Mast-maker of his Majesty's Dock-yard, at Portsmouth,)

EXECUTED NEAR WINCHESTER, FOR MURDER.

THE unhappy fate of Mr. Powell serves to confirm the old saying, "Never interfere between man and wife."

This unfortunate man's situation, under government, was very respectable, yielding an income of between four and five hundred pounds per annum.

He married the daughter of Mr. Frampton, of Portsmouth, a gentleman much respected, and with her, for a short time only, were his prospects of happiness. The young wife, too inexperienced, perhaps, for the marriage state, and too giddy for the sober and experienced years of her husband, had, it seems, been reproved by him on this head, of which she, still more unadvised, complained to her father, who taking her part, the husband sought revenge.

It appeared he had long brooded on the destruction of the man, though her parent, who interfered between him and his wife.

Accordingly, meeting Mr. Frampton on the Common-Hard, at Portsmouth, he pulled a pistol from his pocket, and fired at him without effect. Finding his devoted subject unhurt, he took out another, and shot him dead on the spot.

For this horrid deed he was condemned at Winchester.

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He was carried to the place of execution along with Gregory Bentham, quarter-master of the Scipio man of war, for shooting with a pistol, in a scuffle, William Barnes, coxswain of the said ship.

The deceased, in this case, had been sent after Bentham, who had exceeded his leave of absence, and refusing to return, on the coxswain's proceeding to enforce his orders, was shot.

They were executed on a temporary gallows, near Winchester.

JOHN TERRY and JOSEPH HEALD,

EXECUTED AT YORK, MARCH 21, 1803, FOR MURDER.

(A most wicked and barbarous Case, and more extraordinary Execution.)

IN this man we find another sad instance of early depravity, and, like all cruel people, a more than common horror of yielding up life, as an atonement certainly due for shedding innocent blood—a precept of holy writ. His voluntary confession, mysterious conduct, and resistance of his fate at the gallows, renders this account dreadfully interesting.

John Terry and his fellow-apprentice, Joseph Heald, were found guilty of the wilful murder of Elizabeth Smith, aged sixty-seven years, at Flaminshaw, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

The deceased, though in humble life, bore an excellent character, and had maintained herself by keeping cows, and selling their produce.

Having had the misfortune to lose two of her cows, she was left nearly destitute, but by the humane assistance of her neighbours she was enabled to purchase one cow; and a son, who lived at Leeds, sent her eighteen guineas afterwards to buy another, but desired her not to purchase it before Fog-time.

On her receiving the eighteen guineas, it was immediately made known amongst her neighbours.

T. Shaw and S. Linley, constables, proved the confession



JOHN TERRY.

sion of Terry ; which was, “ that he and Heald met together the night on which the murder was committed, and parted at ten o’clock, to meet again at the deceased’s about one o’clock. They met. That he (Terry) assisted Heald in getting into a window, up one pair of stairs ; that he afterwards set up something against the house, and climbed up after Heald. That, after several blows had been struck at the deceased, Heald took a razor, and Terry held her head. In a short time he had his hand cut, and advised Heald to desist, as he had got enough, and would then go to the door, and look if all was safe. Upon his return he found that Heald had got the deceased into the adjoining room, and was beating her over the head with the tongs ; upon which he told him to desist, and come away, and there would be no more about it.” Also, that when Heald was brought into the room, after Terry had made the confession, Heald said to him, “ Terry, I thought thou wouldst not have deceived me so, thou knowest I was not with thee ;” to which he answered, “ Thou knowest there is a God above who knows all.” A second time Heald asked him, why he should deceive him ? and said, “ Thou hadst better lay it upon somebody else.” To which he replied, “ I will not hang an innocent man : thou knowest there were but us two, and God for our witness.”

The judge summed up the evidence to the jury, and, as it appeared there was no doubt of Terry’s guilt, he dwelt principally upon the circumstantial evidence against the prisoner, Heald, and pointed out, with great perspicuity, the shades of evidence against Heald.

The jury declared both the prisoners guilty ; accordingly the judge, in the most solemn manner, pronounced sentence of death upon them.

During the trial, and at the time the awful sentence was passed, Terry behaved with prudence, though apparently affected ; but Heald appeared perfectly ignorant of his situation, often looking around the court, and, to the last part of his trial, shewed great hardness in his behaviour.

Their execution was fixed for Monday, March 21, when early in the morning, the Rev. Mr. Brown, the Ordinary, attended the prisoners in their cell, in order to administer

minister the sacrament, when Terry informed him that Heald was innocent; on which Mr. Brown stated to them the leading facts that were proved against them upon their trial, and referred to Terry's own confession of the manner in which they had perpetrated the murder.

Terry said, "that he had been induced to make that confession, as he had been told that he should thereby save his own life; but he now declared Heald to be innocent, and that he would not be hanged with an innocent man."

In consequence of this declaration, the Ordinary thought it his duty to inform the judge of this extraordinary circumstance; but his lordship was so perfectly satisfied of Heald's guilt, that he ordered the sentence to be put in execution: his lordship, however, humanely sent his marshal, Mr. Wells, to attend the prisoners, with a discretionary power to respite the execution, should any circumstances appear to him, respecting Heald, that would justify the measure.

Mr. Wells was convinced, from the conversation that passed, that Terry was not speaking the truth, and in consequence they were left to their fate.

Again Terry, in proceeding from the cell to the drop, exclaimed aloud, that Heald was innocent, and that they were going to hang an innocent man, and appeared to have worked himself up to a state of frenzy and distraction.

On their being brought on the platform, a scene of more brutal stubbornness was never witnessed than that which was exhibited by this young offender; for as soon as he got on, he went forward to the front, and exclaimed in a loud voice, "They are going to hang an innocent man (meaning Heald); he is as innocent as any of you!" On uttering of which, he immediately made a sudden spring, in order to get down the ladder, which he certainly would have effected, had he not been laid hold of by the clergyman. While they were pulling him back, he again exclaimed, "It was ME that murdered the woman: I said it was Heald; but I did so to save my own life; and would not any of you hang an innocent man to save your own life?" These words he afterwards repeated, adding, "Don't

“ Don’t hang Heald ; if you do, I shall be guilty of *two* murders.”

The clergyman then proceeded to do his duty ; to which Terry paid no attention, but continued very clamorous, notwithstanding the entreaties of Heald, not to deprive him of the benefit of the prayers ; but Terry was not to be restrained ; and it was from the utmost exertions of five or six men, that he could be dragged to the drop, and the rope forced over his head ; during which he tore off his cap, and at the moment when the platform sunk, which put an end to the life of Heald, Terry made a spring, and threw himself against a rail of the scaffold, got his foot upon the edge of a beam, and caught the corner post with his arm, by which he supported himself ; and in this dreadful situation he continued for about a minute, till he was forced off by the executioner, and launched into eternity, with his face uncovered ; a circumstance never, perhaps, known in the annals of a York execution.

The probable reason for Terry’s wretched behaviour was, either to delay the execution, or, by declaring an innocent man was going to suffer, to excite the compassion of the numerous spectators, and induce them to attempt a rescue. However, as Heald met death with resignation, and never once attempted to assert his innocence, which he had done before his condemnation, we may justly conclude, from his silence and submission, that his share in this bloody transaction was great—that notwithstanding his improper conduct during his trial, he was now duly impressed with the magnitude of his sins, and died, as became him—a penitent Christian :—while his unfortunate accomplice, whose previous behaviour had been prudent and exemplary, misapplied the few last moments which were allotted to him in this life, and departed with unavailing lies in his mouth !

REBELLIONS IN IRELAND.

THEIR RISE AND PROGRESS—ASSASSINATION OF THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE
AND HIS NEPHEW—PARTICULARS OF THE LIVES AND EXECUTIONS OF
THE PRINCIPAL REBELS IN 1803.

IN 1790, a confederacy, calling themselves “The United Irishmen of Belfast,” was formed in the north of Ireland; on the 9th of November, 1791, the Society of United Irishmen of Dublin commenced their meetings, choosing for their chairman the Hon. Simon Butler, second son to Lord Viscount Mountgarret, and for their secretary, the celebrated James Napper Tandy, who at that time was a citizen of considerable interest and political influence in Dublin, and a member of the Whig Club. This extraordinary demagogue was afterwards convicted of high treason, pardoned, went into France, and died at Bourdeaux, a general in the service of Buonaparte.

After a recapitulation of grievances, they say, “In the present great æra of reform, when unjust governments are falling in every part of Europe; when religious persecution is compelled to abjure her tyranny over conscience; when the rights of men are ascertained in theory, and that theory is substantiated by practice; when iniquity can no longer defend absurd and oppressive forms against the common sense and common interests of mankind; when all government is acknowledged to originate from the people, and to be so far only obligatory as it protects their rights and promotes their welfare; we think it our duty, as Irishmen, to come forward and state what we feel to be our heavy grievance, and what we know to be its effectual remedy.” This declaration then states several resolutions, complaining of the English influence in Ireland, the necessity of an equal representation of all the people in parliament, the rejection of a place bill, of a pension bill, and of a responsibility bill; the sale of peerages in one house; the corruption avowed in the other; the borough traffic between both, symptoms of a mortal disease which corrodes the vitals of the constitution, and leaves to the
people

people in their own government but the shadow of a name.

The society then specially resolves “that the weight of English influence in the government of Ireland is so great, as to require a cordial union among all the people of Ireland to maintain that balance of power which is essential to the preservation of liberty, and the extension of their commerce.

“That the sole constitutional mode by which such influence can be opposed, is by a complete and radical reform of the representation of the people in parliament; and that no reform is practicable, which shall not include Irishmen of every religious persuasion.”

From the above resolutions it is clear, that a principal object of the society was completely to emancipate the Irish Roman Catholics, and to admit them into the House of Lords and Commons; and, indeed, a great majority of the society were of that religious persuasion; and since its origin, the Catholic claims have been unceasing. Mr. Emmet, and a few others, had, however, two different objects—first, to separate Ireland from England; and, secondly, to establish a republic. This party formed a private society among themselves, and with them originated the system of insurrection which in 1798 broke out into a rebellion, in which several thousands lost their lives, and many of the promoters suffered on the scaffold before it could be suppressed.

England now charged Ireland with disaffection—Ireland replied, that beyond endurance was she oppressed by her elder sister; and, brooding on her complaints, a well-digested conspiracy against the state (with which government was not acquainted till nearly the moment of explosion), in 1803, threatened the city of Dublin with the most serious calamities.

At an early hour on the evening of July the 23d, a variety of inflammatory proclamations were distributed in every part of the town, calling upon the people to unite as before, in opposition to English oppression, &c. and at so early an hour as eight o'clock, a large party forced into the Lord Mayor's house, and seized all the arms and pikes which were in the house; and about ten o'clock, a general

engagement took place in the neighbourhood of James-street, Thomas-street, and in every part of the Liberty.— One of their early acts was the murder of Lord Kilwarden (the Chief Justice of the King's Bench), a healthy man, and about sixty years of age, and his nephew the Rev. Mr. Richard Wolf. Miss Wolf, the daughter of Lord Kilwarden, was with them in the post-chaise. They were returning from his Lordship's country seat, drawn from thence, as reported, by a forged message. Just as the carriage came along the market-house in Thomas-street, Lord Kilwarden was soon recognised, and a mob, hitherto concealed, rushed upon it in every direction, armed with guns, blunderbusses, pikes, swords, &c. Some seized the horses by the head, and dragged the postilion from his seat; while others rushed on each side of the carriage, and opened the doors.

Miss Wolf sat between her uncle and brother, who were dragged out by inhuman fiends from her side, one from each door. In a state of distraction at this inhuman proceeding, and terrified by the horrid banditti who surrounded the carriage, Miss Wolf jumped out, and was received in the arms of one of them, who carried her through the crowd unhurt, to an opposite house, where she remained secreted, until four o'clock on Sunday morning, when she was conveyed to the Castle.

Major Swan, with a strong detachment under his command, was ordered by Government to repair to Thomas-street, the principal scene of the insurrection.

A small part of the military had already skirmished there with the rebels, and a considerable number of the latter were killed and wounded. When the Major arrived there, he saw several lying dead in the streets, and one man only with a pike, who was fired at.

Lord Kilwarden had been carried to the watch-house, in Vicar-street, where Major Swan saw him lying on the guard-bed, dreadfully lacerated; his nephew, Mr. Wolf, was killed on the spot. His Lordship, although near expiring at the time, knew the Major, and appeared perfectly in his senses. He eagerly inquired as to the fate of his daughter, and being assured by the Major of her safety, he exclaimed, with an emotion of gratitude to Heaven,
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ROBERT EMMETT.

ven, "Thank God!" A military gentleman present, naturally filled with indignation, observed, that every man taken with a pike in his hand ought to be instantly hanged: which Lord Kilwarden overhearing, turned to Major Swan, and most impressively exhorted him "to let no man be hanged without being brought to trial!"

A detachment of the military, under the command of Colonel Brown, who, with Mr. Edmiston and Mr. Parker, of the Liberty Rangers, lost their lives in this most disagreeable of all services, attacked a large body of the disaffected, in Francis-street, and dispersed them, but not without a shocking scene of slaughter.

The unfortunate Chief Justice lingered in excruciating pain about two hours, and expired, a martyr to his profession. He was a great lawyer, and, what is more meritorious, a truly good man. It was said, that he had frequently expressed a presentiment, that he should fall by the hands of the assassin.

Dublin now became a scene of confusion and horror. The Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, and the military were left uncontrolled by the Civil Power.

At length peace was somewhat restored, and large rewards were offered for the apprehension of the principal actors in this rebellion. We therefore proceed, without further comment, which indeed our limits will not allow, to the trial of Emmet, the chief of the rebellion.

ROBERT EMMET, ESQ.

A COUNSELLOR AT LAW, AND CHIEF OF THE IRISH REBELS, IN 1803; FOR WHICH HE WAS EXECUTED.

THIS unfortunate young gentleman was the son of Dr. Emmet, a physician, in Ireland, a man of republican principles. At College, he was distinguished as an orator particularly in the Historical Society; but his bold promulgation of democratic principles raised him many enemies in the University; and at length being suspected of disaffection to the British government, to avoid a prosecution,

tion, with which he was threatened, he fled into France, in which country his brother, Thomas Emmet, at that time resided.

Early in 1803, Robert Emmet returned to his native land, where he joined a band of conspirators, who had escaped in the rebellion of 1798, and who had determined upon seizing the castle of Dublin, and making the Lord Lieutenant prisoner. On the 23d of July, 1803, this conspiracy broke out into an insurrection about nine at night, and was completely quelled before morning. Lord Kilwarden, the Chief Justice of Ireland, was murdered in his carriage by a banditti, as already stated; and Emmet, to adopt his own expression, instead of finding himself a leader of a formidable insurrection, found himself without any influence or command, in the midst of a ruffianly mob. With a few adherents, he escaped into the mountains, but returned in a few days, was taken near Dublin, tried for high treason, convicted, and executed, being not more than twenty-four years of age.

This unfortunate youth had early imbibed, under the tutelage of his father, those political doctrines which caused his ruin.

The object of his enthusiastic mind was to separate Ireland from Great Britain, and this he hoped to accomplish without any interference or assistance from France, as appears from his address to the Court after his conviction. These are his words:—"God forbid that I should see my country under the hands of a foreign power. If the French should come as a foreign enemy, Oh! my countrymen! meet them on the shore with a torch in one hand, a sword in the other—receive them with all the destruction of war; immolate them in their boats before our native soil shall be polluted by a foreign foe! If they proceed in landing, fight them on the strand, burn every blade of grass before them as they advance, raze every house; and if you are driven to the centre of your country, collect your provisions, your property, your wives, and your daughters: form a circle around them—fight while but two men are left; and when but one remains, let that man set fire to the pile, and release himself, and the families of his fallen countrymen, from the tyranny of France."

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As Robert had then recently returned from France, and from communing with his brother, it is but fair to conclude that, on this point, they coincided in political sentiments.

From the conduct of this youth, he appears an enthusiast in politics, heated by a sanguine mind even to a degree of insanity, which, though it may not excuse, must palliate his offences.

His oratorical abilities were considerable; and his conduct at that awful moment, when death stood before him, inexorable and inevitable, proved his courage.

He directed the executioner in the preparations necessary to deprive him of life; and did all in his power to impress on the minds of the spectators, that even in the violent manner, in which he was about to lose his life, there was neither fear nor terror—"making a virtue of calamity"—and leaving the world without a tremulous nerve.

Robert Emmet was tried and convicted in Dublin, before Lord Norbury, and a respectable jury, on Monday, September 19, 1803.

After the evidence, the provisional proclamation was read, to show the object of the insurrection, and the resolution proscribing the yeomanry, and other loyal subjects. The prisoner desired that a part of it should also be read, by which it was decreed that no man should suffer death, by court-martial, but for mutiny, until the pleasure of the provisional government should be known: it was read accordingly.

The proclamation addressed to the citizens of Dublin was also read. The prisoner's counsel accounted for the intimate knowledge he had of the provisional proclamation, by saying that it had appeared in other publications. The following papers were then read:—No. I. (found in his lodgings by Major Sirr) was nearly as follows:—"It may seem strange that a person avowing himself to be an enemy of the present government, and engaged in a conspiracy for its overthrow, should undertake to suggest an opinion on its conduct, or expect that advice from such a quarter should be received with attention. The writer of this, however, does not mean to offer an opinion upon a point, in which he feels difficulty—on which his candour might

might be doubted; his intention is to confine himself to points on which he feels with the merciful, and as an Irishman; with the English part of the present government, he will communicate, in the most precise terms, the line of conduct which he may be hereafter compelled to adopt; and which, however painful, would be doubly so, if he did not try to avoid it by the most explicit notification.

“It is not the intention of the undersigned to do more than state what the government must acknowledge, that of the conspiracy knows nothing; and instead of creating terror in its enemies, and confidence in its friends, it will serve, by the scantiness of its information, to furnish new grounds of conviction, to those who are too ready to accuse it for the want of that intelligence which no sagacity could enable it to maintain. If, then, it is unable, by a display of its discoveries, to evince its strength and vigilance, it cannot hope to crush the conspiracy by the weight of its power.

“It is only now that men have to learn, that entering into a conspiracy exposes them to be hanged. . . . Can it hope to injure the body of the conspiracy, so imperceptibly woven as the present, by merely cutting off a few of the threads? No system can change the conduct which the U. I. will adopt for effecting the emancipation of their country.”

No. II. found on the prisoner's person.—“I wish particularly to know how matters stand, if you are not afraid. What hopes there are from abroad, and what they mean to do; and whether, if they pay us a visit, we shall not be worse off than we are? He is very desponding, and says the people are incapable of redress, and unworthy of liberty; that he is confirmed in this by the late transaction, which must have succeeded but for their barbarous desertion and want of unanimity. He thinks that the invasion will not take place at all, but that it is the plan to wear down the English by the expense of frequent preparation.”

No. III. found in the desk in Thomas-street.—“I have but little time to look at the thousand difficulties between me and the completion of my wishes; that they would succeed I have ardent, and, I trust, rational hopes; but if that
should

should not be the case, I thank God for having gifted me with a sanguine disposition, so that I run from reflection ; and if my hopes are without foundation—if a precipice be opening under my feet, from which duty will not suffer me to depart, I am thankful for that disposition, which leads me on to it, and hurls me down, while my eyes are raised to the visions of happiness which my fancy has formed in the air.”

No. IV. was the manuscript of the Proclamation of the Provisional Government, found in the desk in Thomas-Street.

When this unfortunate young man was called upon to know if he had any thing to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he addressed the Court and Jury nearly in the following terms :

“ I am asked if I have any thing to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon me. Was I to suffer only death, after being adjudged guilty, I should bow in silence ; but a man in my situation has not only to combat with the difficulties of fortune, but also the difficulties of prejudice ; the sentence of the law, which delivers over his body to the executioner, consigns his character to obloquy. The man dies, but his memory lives ; and that mine may not forfeit all claim to the respect of my countrymen, I use this occasion to vindicate myself from some of the charges advanced against me.

“ I am charged with being an emissary of France—’tis false ! I am no emissary—I did not wish to deliver up my country to a foreign power, and least of all, to France.—No ! never did I entertain the idea of establishing French power in Ireland—God forbid ! On the contrary, it is evident from the introductory paragraph of the Address of the Provisional Government, that every hazard attending an independent effort, was deemed preferable to the more fatal risk of introducing a French army into the country. Small would be our claims to patriotism and to sense, and palpable our affectation of the love of liberty, if we were to encourage the profanation of our shores by a people who are slaves themselves, and the unprincipled and abandoned instruments of imposing slavery on others.

“ If such an inference be drawn from any part of the proclamation of the Provisional Government, it calumniates their views, and is not warranted by the fact. How could they speak of freedom to their countrymen? How assume such an exalted motive, and meditate the introduction of a power which has been the enemy of freedom in every part of the globe? Reviewing the conduct of France to other countries, could we expect better towards us? No! Let not, then, any man attaint my memory by believing that I could have hoped freedom through the aid of France, and betrayed the sacred cause of liberty by committing it to the power of her most determined foe: had I done so, I had not deserved to live; and dying with such a weight upon my character, I had merited the honest execration of that country which gave me birth, and to which I would have given freedom.

“ Had I been in Switzerland, I would have fought against the French—in the dignity of freedom, I would have expired on the threshold of that country, and they should have entered it only by passing over my lifeless corpse. Is it then to be supposed, that I would be slow to make the same sacrifice to my native land? Am I, who lived but to be of service to my country, and who would subject myself to the bondage of the grave to give her independence—am I to be loaded with the foul and grievous calumny of being an emissary of France?

“ My lords, it may be part of the system of angry justice, to bow a man’s mind, by humiliation, to meet the ignominy of the scaffold; but worse to me than the scaffold’s shame, or the scaffold’s terrors, would be the imputation of having been the agent of French despotism and ambition; and while I have breath, I will call upon my countrymen not to believe me guilty of so foul a crime against their liberties and their happiness.

“ Though you, my lord, sit there a judge, and I stand here a culprit, yet you are but a man, and I am another; I have a right, therefore, to vindicate my character and motives from the aspersions of calumny; and, as a man, to whom fame is dearer than life, I will make the last use of that life in rescuing my name and my memory
from

from the afflicting imputation of having been an emissary of France, or seeking her interference in the internal regulation of her affairs.

“ Did I live to see a French army approach this country, I would meet it on the shore, with a torch in one hand, and a sword in the other—I would receive them with all the destruction of war! I would animate my countrymen to immolate them in their very boats; and before our native soil should be polluted by a foreign foe, if they succeeded in landing, I would burn every blade of grass before them, raze every house, contend to the last for every inch of ground; and the last spot on which the hope of freedom should desert me, that spot I would make my grave! What I cannot do, I leave a legacy to my country, because I feel conscious that my death were unprofitable, and all hopes of liberty extinct, the moment a French army obtained a footing in this land.”

After some farther matter, he concluded thus: “ My lamp of life is nearly expired—my race is finished: the grave opens to receive me, and I sink into its bosom. All I request, then, at parting from the world, is the charity of its silence. Let no man write my epitaph, for as no man who knows my motives, dare vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them; let them and me repose in obscurity and peace, and my tomb remain undescribed, till other times and other men can do justice to my character.”

Lord Norbury, after paying a handsome compliment to some of the respectable members of the family to which the prisoner belonged, pronounced the awful sentence of the law in the usual form. On his return to Newgate, he drew up a statement of the insurrection and the cause of its failure, which he requested might be sent to his brother in Paris.

He accounted for the expences incurred in preparations for rebellion, by stating that he had received, on the death of his father, 3,500*l.* and that he had expended of that sum 2,500*l.* in purchasing the arms found in the depot in Marshalsea-lane.

His last moments were employed in writing a letter
to

to Richard Curran, to whose sister* he was tenderly attached, but without the approbation of her father. He appears to have had a romantic idea that success in this enterprise would have removed all obstacle to their union, for in the letter alluded to he says "I did hope that success, while it afforded the opportunity of our union, might be the means of confirming an attachment, which misfortune had called forth. I did not look to honours for myself—praise I would have asked from the lips of no man; but I would have wished to read in the glow of Sarah's countenance that her husband was respected."

This letter was written at twelve o'clock on the day of Mr. Emmet's execution; and the firmness and regularity of the original hand-writing contain a shocking and affecting proof of the little influence which the approaching event exerted over his frame. The same enthusiasm which lured him to his destruction enabled him to support its utmost rigour. He met his fate with unostentatious fortitude; and although few could ever think of justifying his projects or regretting their failure, yet his youth, his talents, and the great respectability of his connexions, and the evident delusion of which he was the victim, have excited more general sympathy for his unfortunate end, and more forbearance towards his memory, than is usually extended to the errors or sufferings of political offenders.

Moore, the celebrated Irish bard, has lamented his fate in the following melody:—

* The story of their attachment, and of the melancholy consequences of Emmet's fate on Miss Curran, who sunk into a premature grave, are beautifully told by Washington Irving, in the "Sketch Book," under the title of "The Broken Heart." "She loved him," says he, "with all the disinterested fervour of a woman's first and early love. When every worldly maxim arrayed itself against him; when blasted in fortune, and disgrace and danger darkened around his name, she loved him the more ardently for his very sufferings. If, then, his fate could awaken the sympathy even of his foes, what must have been the agony of her whose soul was occupied by his image! Let those tell who have had the portals of the tomb suddenly closed between them and the being they most loved on earth—who have sat at its threshold, as one shut out in a cold and lonely world, from whence all that was most lovely and loving had departed."

"OH!

" OH ! breathe not his name—let it sleep in the shade !
Where cold and unhonor'd his relics are laid !
Sad, silent, and dark, be the tears that we shed,
As the night dew that falls on the grass o'er his head.
But the night dew that falls, though in silence it weeps,
Shall brighten with verdure the grave where he sleeps ;
And the tear that we shed, though in secret it rolls,
Shall long keep his memory green in our souls.

Several of Emmet's deluded followers met the fate of their leader.

EDWARD KEARNEY, alias CARNEY, was tried by a Special Commission, at Green-street.—The Attorney-general addressed the Court and Jury, on the nature of treason, and how the Act of the 25th of Edward the Third applied. He explained the nature of the transaction of the 23d of July ; that it was a business of much narrower limits than those engaged in it were willing to admit ; that it was a visitation of Providence to rouse the people to a greater exertion of loyalty, and dwelt with peculiar energy on the difference between the governments of France and England.

He then called the attention of the Court to the conduct of government to the traitors in 1798 ; some paid their lives as the forfeit of their crimes, some were transported, and some escaped for want of legal evidence to convict them. Many had changed from their former conduct, but others had returned to disturb a constitution, the envy and admiration of the universe.

Patrick M'Cabe, who had turned approver for the crown, admitted, that he was concerned in the rebellion of 1798 : that he was informed of the present business the day before the rebellion ; he proved the general circumstances of the transaction, but not the identity of the prisoner.

The principal evidence against the prisoner was Lieutenant and Adjutant Brady, of the 21st regiment, who proved the finding him in arms on the night of the 23d : this was confirmed by a private in the same regiment, though there was some trifling difference in the evidence.

The prisoner's defence consisted of a speech of considerable length, from his counsel, who endeavoured to ex-
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cite doubts in the minds of the jury, and on those doubts to obtain a verdict of acquittal.

The prisoner he represented as a poor, but honest and industrious hawker of skins, who had been that fatal evening pressed into the service of the insurgents. Certain evidences were adduced to prove an alibi for him, and others to give him a good character: he was, notwithstanding, found guilty.

Lord Norbury, previous to recapitulating the evidence, laid down the law of high-treason, and stated, from several eminent law reports, the different mode of practice adopted by the courts in England. His lordship was peculiarly affecting in pronouncing sentence of death on the unhappy prisoner, whose levity of manner, in the mean time, bordered on insanity, while aiming to exculpate himself.

His execution, which was fixed for the following Friday (September 2), took place in Thomas-street, where he was apprehended perpetrating his crime, and nearly on the spot where Lord Kilwarden was so barbarously murdered.

He was taken from the gaol to the place of execution, about one o'clock, escorted by a strong military guard, and behaved in the same intemperate manner which distinguished him on his trial.

He was of the lower rank of society, what is termed a skin-jobber by profession (a dealer in dry calf-skins), and seemed to be between forty and fifty years of age.

It will be conceived that penitence had made no impression upon him, when it is stated, that a short time before he left the gaol, he swore by his maker, he was not guilty. The Rev. Mr. Archer and the Rev. Mr. Gamble took much pains in exhortation, to bring him to a proper sense of his awful situation: he read a Catholic prayer-book for a short time before he left the prison; but not with that coolness and resignation which evince sincere repentance.

The unfortunate malefactor had been much given to intoxication in the course of his life, and which, no doubt, had been his bane: he candidly acknowledged such excess, and was most impressively entreated by Dr. Gamble, if he would make no other acknowledgment, at least to do
that

that to the multitude of the lower class at the place of execution, and warn them against such ruinous vice.

He seemed to pay more attention to the fate of his body than his soul, having several times inquired before he left the prison, what was to become of it after his death. At the fatal spot, however, he behaved with much fortitude; and, addressing the crowd in a distinct voice, warned them to return to their allegiance.

After he was hanged, his head was cut off by the executioner, who held it up in his hand, according to the law against treason, saying, "Behold the head of a traitor." His remains were brought back in a cart to the prison, and interred in the yard of Newgate.

Notwithstanding the threat in the Rebel Proclamation, "that the execution of the first man, who should suffer as a traitor, should be the signal for a general rising," the sentence was carried into effect without exciting the smallest disturbance.

THOMAS MAXWELL ROCHE, an old man, about sixty years of age, and by trade a slater, was the next brought to trial, September 1. The evidence afforded nothing new, or materially differing from that adduced on the trial of Kearney; like him, Roche was found in arms in Thomas-street, by Lieutenant Brady, and the party of the 21st regiment under his command.

Some time before this hoary malefactor left the gaol for execution, he persisted in declaring he was not guilty, but it appeared equivocation; for on being exhorted in a most becoming manner, by a reverend gentleman present, not to add to his crime by dissembling in the presence of the Supreme Being, he at length declared at the place of execution, that he was guilty of the crime for which he suffered. From a discharge which he produced, as to his character, it appeared that he had likewise been addicted to inebriety, that demon of destruction to the lower class. He suffered also in Thomas-street.

OWEN KIRWAN, an old clothesman, was the third person indicted.

Benjamin Adams, a silk weaver, in Plunket-street, swore, that he knew the prisoner for ten or twelve years, who lived nearly opposite to him; he recollected the
night

night of the 23d ; saw the prisoner leaning over his door, also saw him go up repeatedly from his house to Thomas-street, with a green bag filled with something ; saw him between eight and nine o'clock going into his house, he was then at the window on the third floor ; beheld a rocket in the air go across the street over the prisoner's house ; prisoner then said, " There is the rocket, my boys ! " he then turned into his shop, put on a green coat, and went out ; his wife followed him, and made him come back, and put on a cotton jacket. Prisoner put a pike on his shoulder, and said, " God's blood, boys ! the town is our own to-night. " He then said, " Any man that does not turn out to-night, will surely be put to death to-morrow. "

The prisoner then and his party ran up Plunket-street, and turned into Thomas-street. The party were all armed with pikes, and the prisoner at the bar also had a pike ; in about half an hour afterwards, the witness saw a parcel of armed men pass down Plunket-street, towards Patrick-street ; in about a quarter of an hour after, sixty or seventy persons came down Plunket-street ; some of them stopped at the prisoner's door, and some lower down ; they got beer. Kirwan's wife had something prepared for them. In about half an hour he heard a firing from the Coombe.

The prisoner called several persons, who gave him the character of a sober, industrious man, and one who they never heard was concerned in any rebellious affair. The jury, however, found him guilty. The next day (Friday September 2), he was brought up to receive sentence of death, when Baron George addressed him in an affecting speech of some length, concluding in nearly the following words :

" Do not suppose that the cause you engaged in, and for which you have forfeited your life, is popular, and will rescue your memory from the deserved odium which must attach to it, in proportion as you die obdurate or unatoning. No ! wretched man ! your mad atrocities, your horrible assassinations, will only be remembered, and the detestation of posterity feature you in the blood you have shed. In the last rebellion it was to be lamented, that wicked men made use of arguments to mislead the weak, and to palliate

palliate treason ; but has any human creature said a single word in favour or palliation of the insurrection to which you have been so actively assisting ? No ! its sole object has been blood and desolation ; and the fate of him who could promote, in conspiracy or in action, such an object, can never be attended with popularity. Discharge, therefore, such a wicked and dangerous delusion from your mind, if you should be so unhappy as to entertain it ; think only of your salvation, as a contrite Christian should, and do not leave the world with a lie in your mouth, and go before your Maker, swaggering in vain and boastful guilt. Believe me, unhappy man, that to disclose all you know, and thus make your injured country and offended God all the atonement in your power, will prove an inexpressible consolation to you in your last moments, and infuse into your soul that sweet consciousness of right, which can alone sweeten the bitter draught you are about to take, and justify a hope of future pardon and happiness. You were told that a rocket would be the signal of insurrection. You knew of the mischief to be done ; you were evidently deep in the dreadful secret ; and therefore again I exhort you, as you value your eternal salvation, not to leave this life until you do justice to your country, and make what return you now can for the crimes with which you have disgraced it. But while I thus urge you to the disclosure which your duty should suggest, do not think I am authorised to hold out any hope to you, or that any disclosure will be an atonement to the law : but under any consideration of your interest or duty, you must act in opposition to both, whether in this world or the next, by denying the truth and justice of the verdict pronounced upon you, and persisting in a frame of mind incorrigible to repentance and atonement."

This unhappy culprit was executed September 8, in Thomas-street, on the same gallows where his partners in rebellion and assassination expiated their crimes. His conduct was decent, and he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and the impartiality of his trial.

JAMES BYRNE, who had been bred up to the baking business, which he had successfully carried on for some

years in the neighbourhood of Naas, in the county of Kildare, was, September 2, found guilty on charges of high-treason, and the next day received sentence of death from Baron Daly.

On the 5th (two days after,) he was executed opposite the King's stores, in Townsend-street, where a temporary gallows was erected for the purpose. There was an immense concourse of spectators, whom he addressed in the following very few words: "Gentlemen, I hope my fate will be a warning to you all."

He was a large man, and his weight extended the rope by which he hung to such a length, that his feet reached the ground; and, for want of any species of machinery to ease him, the executioner was obliged to bend his legs backwards, and tie them to his thighs. In this situation he hung for some moments, apparently in great torture. After hanging twenty-three minutes, he was cut down, and his head severed from his body.

On the 6th of September, FELIX ROURKE, a rebel officer, was also convicted of high-treason. This man was a colonel in the rebellion of 1798; previous to which he was serjeant to the Coolock yeomanry corps, and joined in a conspiracy to murder Captain Ormsby, and some other officers of the corps: a man of the name of Clinch was executed for his crime.

Rourke afterwards turned strolling player, but failing in that pursuit, he again turned his thoughts to real scenes of human bloodshed, in which he acted a principal part.—He, with John Killin, and John M'Cann (two other convicted rebels), was brought up on the 9th, and received sentence of death.

On this occasion, Baron George addressed the prisoners in a most feeling manner, but particularly Felix Rourke, to whom he represented the aggravation which his crime received from the part which he took in the insurrection; not only committing treason himself, but seducing others to a similar crime.

Before sentence was passed, Rourke addressed the Court in language calculated to convey an impression that he was superior to the vulgar herd: he, however, negatively

tively admitted that he was a leader of rebellion on the evening of the 23d of July, but solemnly protested that he was never concerned in the spilling of blood. Few, however, of those who heard him, believed that he was in any respect, whether of intention or action, free from the massacre of that dreadful night.

Rourke, on his leaving gaol on Saturday, September 10, for execution, endeavoured to affect fortitude, and to baffle a shivering that he was seized with. Being asked, was he easy in his mind? he said he was perfectly composed: he went in a smart pace from the gaol into the cart, and sat on the side going to the gallows, and as he went from the prison, bowed his head to those he saw in the windows, signifying farewell to his comrades: on his way he looked much about him in the town, instead of paying attention to his book.

He was escorted by a strong party of horse, and the adjacent yeomanry corps were assembled on the spot, to prevent any attempt to rescue the prisoner. Notwithstanding his assumed boldness, and his protestations of innocence, he met his fate with the most abject cowardice; and at the gallows, confessed the justice of his sentence, and recanted his bravado assertions of innocence. He was executed in Rathcoole, in the neighbourhood of which he lived; this town, at the time of his execution, seemed to have been deserted by its inhabitants, there being not one in coloured clothes to be seen.

The following Monday, Killin and M'Cann were executed in Thomas-street: they conducted themselves with apparent penitence, and acknowledged the justness of their conviction, and of their punishment.

HENRY HAWLEY, another of these traitors, and who seemed to have somewhat of a better education than any of the rest (except Emmet) was a native of Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary, and had been so active in the rebellion of 1798, that he was wounded in an attempt to plunder a house, in that neighbourhood, of arms. When John Hanson, the keeper of the tower, in the castle, went to arrest him, this desperate man immediately fired at and shot him: for this crime he was not indicted, but for that

of high treason, September 27. The fact of his having been employed in the manufacture of pikes, was proved by evidence similar to that produced on former trials; and no attempt being made to rebut the charge, the jury, without going out of the box, pronounced the verdict of guilty.

After a solemn appeal to the prisoner, on the enormity of his offence, Baron George pronounced sentence of death on him.

This wretched man was executed September 29, 1803, according to his sentence, at the front of the New Prison. Before the rope was adjusted, he requested leave to address the people. The extreme contrition and repentance which he expressed, induced the sheriffs to yield to his desire: he accordingly came out upon the platform, and raising his voice so as to be heard to a considerable distance, said nearly as follows:—"Good people, pray for me, and pray that I may be forgiven my sins, which I heartily repent of. Good people, you see to what a situation I am brought by my own folly, and by bad advisers. Good people, love each other, and forget all animosities—relinquish your foolish pursuits, which, if you continue to follow, will, in the end, bring you to the situation in which I now stand."

He confessed that he had, with his own hand, murdered Colonel Brown, of the 21st regiment, on the night of the rebellion. He appeared fully sensible of the enormity of his crime, as well as that of the murder of Hanson, and exhibited an appearance of the deepest remorse, entirely different from that sullen and ferocious apathy with which so many of his accomplices had met their fate. His whole conduct excited a degree of compassion, which it required the full recollection of his crimes to overcome. He returned from the platform, and, having prayed for a short time, was again led forth, and the trap falling, he died without a struggle.

On the first of October, JOHN M'INTOSH was tried before the special commission, on the same charges of high-treason with those whose trials preceded him. It appeared that the prisoner, a carpenter by trade, had rented the house, No. 26, in Patrick-street, where the explosion of gunpowder

gunpowder took place on the Saturday previous to the insurrection. On that occasion he would not accept of the assistance of his neighbours, but locked up the place, telling a man living next door to him, who was more particular in his enquiries, that the explosion was in consequence of an experiment tried by silk-dyers. Mr. Wilson, a chief peace-officer, went to the house the following evening, and ascertained the explosion to have been that of gunpowder; a parcel of which he found in an unfinished state, and some saltpetre. He also found in a chest, about fifty fresh-cast musket-balls, a volume of Volney's Ruins of Empires; and in the house were about two hundred pike handles, shorter than those with which he had afterwards become more familiar; but, in an adjoining house, he found a parcel of bayonets, with the sockets filled with wood, and as if they had been sawed from off the handles, which were in the first house. It appeared that, after the explosion in Patrick-street, the prisoner went immediately to the dépôt, in Mass-lane, where he continued until the 23d of July, preparing for the insurrection which broke out on that evening.

When the insurrection took place, he was actively engaged in it: he was one of those who fired at the trooper who was killed; he was also among those infernal assassins who stopped Lord Kilwarden's carriage; and stood by while that lamented nobleman and his nephew were piked to death.

It did not appear that he inflicted any of the wounds, which were all given with pikes, he having been armed with pistols and a blunderbuss.

After the defeat of the insurrection, he fled; and, as he was passing through Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, he was arrested by Mr. Coates, a magistrate, to whom he said that his name was Magrath; that he was a millwright by trade, was going to Waterford, had been working at Mr. Jones's, in the county of Wicklow, and had not been in Dublin for three weeks previous to the 23d of July. There was no tenable defence set up. Some persons were adduced to character; and the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict of "Guilty."

This

This culprit suffered October 3, 1803, in Patrick-street, opposite the house where he had been manufacturing the powder for rebellion.

On the day of M'Intosh's execution, THOMAS KEENAN was tried on the same charges of high-treason. It was proved that he was an associate of M'Intosh, and was arrested along with him in the town of Arklow, whither they had fled after the 23d of July.

Like M'Intosh, he assumed a feigned name and occupation, when questioned by Mr. Coates the magistrate; and also said that he had been at work some time before the 23d, and on that day, for a Mr. Jones, of Kilnecarry, in the county of Wicklow. It was proved by two witnesses, Fleming and Finerty, that he had been in the rebel depôt, in Mass-lane, in the course of the week previous to the insurrection, at work as a carpenter, making pike-handles, &c.; and Fleming swore positively that he was one of those who piked Lord Kilwarden.

The jury, after five minutes conference, returned a verdict, "Guilty."

Sentence of death was immediately pronounced. The prisoner did not deny his having been one of the conspiracy, but positively denied having been one of the murderers of Lord Kilwarden. He was executed on the 4th of October, 1803, in Thomas-street.

DENNIS LAMBERT REDMOND, a very principal person in this insurrection, was tried for high treason, October 5th. His trial was intended for September 3d, on which morning, just before he was sent for, the prisoner shot himself with a small pocket-pistol, which he had for some time about his person, concealed in his pantaloons. The city-surgeon immediately examined his wound, and reported it not dangerous.

Previous to this, he had offered to give information to government of all persons concerned in the late horrid insurrection, together with their plans and connections. This proposal, after having been well weighed, was rejected: the charges against the prisoner, who was not one of the deluded mob, being of such a nature as to make him, if found guilty, a peculiarly fit subject for an example.

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The double shame of guilt and treachery hastened the commission of this rash act, which drew a veil between him and the publication of his crimes.

This wretched man, instead of accelerating his death as he intended, only procrastinated it by having thus postponed his trial and execution. Pat M'Cabe, the accomplice, was the principal witness, who proved the conspiracy to levy war, on the 23d of July, in company with Allen, who was tried along with Arthur O'Connor, at Maidstone, and acquitted.

It was also proved, that he employed carpenters in his house to make pike-handles; and that numbers of those weapons, bayonets, &c. were found concealed in his house, in the Coal Quay, particularly pikes under a part of the flooring, and more in three cases, formed to resemble beams of timber.

After the 23d of July, the prisoner fled in a vessel, the Tarleton, James Murphy, master, bound to Chester, but was put into Carlingford by a storm, in which the vessel was like to have been lost: there he was taken, and transmitted to Dublin; and, on his examination, gave a false account of some circumstances, and which falsehoods were strongly corroborative of his guilt.

The jury, in about five minutes, returned a verdict of "Guilty."

Being asked why judgment should not be pronounced against him, he addressed the court with tremor, and under such strong agitation, as frequently deprived him of speech for minutes. In his address, he alledged, "that the conduct proved against him by M'Cabe had been exaggerated, though in part true; that in his conversation with Mr. Read, in Drogheda, Mr. Read gave the king's health, which he drank, and then gave General Bonaparte; that on Mr. Read's speaking hardly of Bonaparte, he used his best arguments to support the character of the then Chief Consul, alledging that he had a right so to do, as respectable persons in London had been prosecuted for speaking against him." [Here he was stopped by agitation.] He then, after a pause of some minutes, went on—"I will, now that the halter is about my neck, and the axe ready to sever my head from my body, confess, that I held an official

official situation under the Provincial Government; and that the great object of my heart was to promote the views of that government—[Here again he stopped]—and every act which I have done in forwarding that government, I should be ——” [Here his voice utterly failed]— and after a long pause—

Baron George, with that benign humanity, which marks his every act, said, that if the prisoner had any thing more to say, the court would wait as long as he desired. The prisoner said, “he would give no further trouble;” and the baron, after a most impressive lecture on the fatal consequences of treason, pronounced the terrible sentence of the law.

This unfortunate man was about twenty-five years of age, in his person tall and athletic, and rather a handsome long countenance.

He was executed on the 6th of October, 1803, in the Coal Quay, opposite his own door, about half-past two o'clock. He was dressed very genteely, his hair *à la crop*, and a large cravat, very high about his chin. The remains of the wound he inflicted on himself by the pistol-shot were covered with a black plaister, very neatly.

He quitted the gaol about one, and was brought over Carlisle-bridge, and through College-green, Dame-street, Parliament-street, &c. He behaved, during his passage, with much composure and recollection, and seemed to take notice, rather particularly, of any little stoppage or noise in his progress, as he would often turn his head round to the front of the cart, in which he sat on its floor, with his back to the horse, and would salute his acquaintance as he passed them. He seemed to look on the different houses and public buildings, with which he was more intimately acquainted, with a sort of farewell expression in his countenance.

On his arrival at the place of execution, the female part of the spectators received him with quiet expressions, and signs of grief and pity; their eyes and countenances alone proved their feelings; but, to do them justice, they cursed most heartily those who had seduced their friends to the paths of disloyalty; in short, every one pitied the man, but execrated his principles. Very little time was necessary

sary to complete his business. He mounted the ladder with steadiness and resolution, and without the smallest levity, though there was a sort of indignant behaviour about him, which was most fully exemplified in his answer to the clergyman who attended him; when he was asked, "Do you die in peace with all mankind?" he answered, "'Tis no matter, I must die, whether or no." He remained on the platform for above five minutes alone, when he gave the signal which launched him into eternity. He fell with great force, and died without shewing symptoms of much pain; indeed, the fall was so great, that he scarcely even stirred.

Thus died, an ignominious death, a man who had every prospect in this world to become an useful and honourable member of society, at least if property could influence; he having come into above 300*l.* per annum about a year before.

We shall conclude our account of these insurgents with that of THOMAS RUSSEL (the only leader of note after Emmet), who, under the title of the General of the Northern District, under the Provisional Government, issued a proclamation to that district on the 23d of July. This man had been long distinguished for superiority of talents, particularly as a military character. He had served both in the East and West Indies, and in the latter with great credit in the same regiment with General Knox, with whom he went to Ireland, and was very attentively treated by the Northland family, through whose interest he was appointed a magistrate for the county of Tyrone, and he lived for some time at Dungannon; but in consequence of a difference with the Northland family, entirely arising from politics, he removed to Belfast, where he resided until the year 1792, when he was arrested, with Samuel Nelson and others, and conveyed to Newgate, Dublin: there he remained a prisoner until 1798, when he was sent, with Arthur O'Connor and others, to Fort St. George, in Scotland. At the conclusion of peace he was, with the other prisoners, liberated, and he proceeded to France. He lived in Paris during the peace, and was observed to be intimately acquainted with many of the members of the French Government, and with several of the first generals

als in France. Immediately subsequent to the declaration of war, he was missed from Paris, and found his way to Ireland.

His mal-practices having been discovered by government, one thousand pounds were offered by proclamation for his apprehension, but his arrest was not produced in consequence of that offer. It was owing to a Mr. Emerson, of the attorney's corps. He had received information, which was obtained through the vigilance of the Divisional Inspector of the District, that a stranger of suspicious appearance was observed in the house of a Mr. Muley, gun-maker, in Parliament-street. This circumstance Mr. Emerson immediately communicated to Mr. Secretary Marsden, by whom he was referred to Major Sirr. Mr. Emerson accordingly called upon the major, and, accompanied by him and Lieutenant Minchin, with a detachment of Captain Green's corps of Yeomanry, under the command of Lieutenant Beton, proceeded to the house in question about ten o'clock that night, where, in a garret-room, they discovered the person whose conduct had excited suspicion. On their attempting to examine him he drew forth two loaded pistols, which he snapped at them, but both missed fire. Being recognised by Sirr, as Russel, the rebel general, he was seized and taken to the castle. He represented himself as Mr. Thomas, but Sirr had recollected him since he was a prisoner in Newgate; and, upon being taken to the castle, he was immediately identified by an old acquaintance of his, the Hon. Captain Knox, son of Lord Northland, under whose patronage Russel once was, until he had forfeited it by his political principles. Other northern gentlemen, who were at dinner with Mr. Wickham, also knew Russel. After he had acknowledged his real name, he avowed his purpose in coming to the country, and spoke in the boldest language of the "glorious cause" in which he was engaged.—"It is that," said he, "for which I would meet death with pleasure, either in the field or on the scaffold."

His trial came on October 19, 1803, before a special commission at Downpatrick, Ireland: it occupied the attention of the court from ten in the morning till past eight

eight in the evening. One very important fact came out in the course of his trial: that, with all the influence which he possessed at one period among the lower orders; with all the exertions which he made, aided by the manners of a popular leader, he was unable to raise any thing like a formidable body of insurgents. Individual adherents he met with; but the great body of the people showed no disposition to espouse his cause.

The prisoner, having been asked if he had any thing to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, addressed the court in an eloquent and energetic, though somewhat unconnected speech, of about twenty minutes, in which he took a view of the principal transactions of his life for the last thirteen years; and on a retrospective view of which, he said, he looked back with triumph and satisfaction. He endeavoured to vindicate his conduct from the criminality attached to it, by asserting that in all he had done, he had acted from the conviction of his conscience; and anxiously requested that the court would make him not only the first, but the only life which should be taken on the present occasion; mercifully sparing to their families and friends the lives of those men whom it was asserted he had led astray.

The Hon. Baron George, after a pathetic address of some length, then pronounced the awful sentence of the law, which the prisoner listened to with the greatest composure—bowed respectfully to the court, and then retired in the custody of the sheriff.

This unfortunate man was executed Oct. the 21st (Friday), and suffered with a degree of fortitude worthy of a better cause. He was very liberally educated; and, in some pamphlets written by him upon the state of Ireland previous to 1798, manifested considerable genius and information. He was about six feet high, of a very noble mien, a remarkably well-proportioned stature, and very marked countenance. His mind seemed strong. His conversation was very interesting, where he was disposed to be communicative; but he was in general reserved. His manners were highly polished. On the whole, he appeared to be amazingly well calculated to conciliate attachment, and insure obedience.

JAMES TURNBULL,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, MAY 15, 1799, FOR ROBBING THE MINT.

IN the reign of King Charles II. Colonel Blood forcibly stole the crown from the Tower of London, and had proceeded almost out of detection, before the valuable gem was recovered.

James Turnbull, with equal desperate resolution, robbed the national mint in the same fortress; two of the most daring robberies ever committed, and the perpetrator of each, servants of the crown, in a military capacity, but of somewhat different rank—Blood having been a colonel, while Turnbull was merely a private soldier in the third regiment of foot guards.

At the Old Bailey, February, 25, James Turnbull was tried for robbing the Mint. This was one of the most daring robberies ever committed. It appeared by evidence, that the prisoner (a private soldier in the third regiment of Guards) was employed on the 20th of December last, with orders for the military quartered at the Tower, to work the die in the coinage of guineas.—That at nine o'clock, he pretended to go with the other men to his breakfast, but returned in a minute or two with a comrade, named Dalton: the latter stood at the door, while Turnbull went and clapt a pistol to the head of one Finch, an apprentice, who was left in care of the coining-room, together with a Mr. Chambers, and demanded the key of the chest where the finished guineas were deposited.—Mr. Chambers coming up to interfere, the prisoner levelled the pistol at his forehead, and shoved him into a passage leading to another room, in which he locked both him and Finch. He then opened the chest, and took out four bags, containing 2380 guineas, and escaped with them before an alarm could be made. For a fortnight he eluded all search and pursuit; but was apprehended on the 5th of January, at Dover, in endeavouring to hire a boat to carry him to France. The foregoing circumstances being fully substantiated by evidence, and acknowledging himself to be guilty of the said robbery, when called on to make his defence, the Jury instantly found

found him Guilty.—His Counsel urged a point of law in arrest of judgment, but which the Court deemed not of the least force, and he accordingly received sentence of death. He instantly replied, “I have now heard my sentence, and I thank God for it.”

It is somewhat a matter of surprise, that such a culprit condemned for such a crime—a soldier robbing his country, which he had sworn to defend, should be indulged with his forfeited life, while numbers, for far inferior offences, have had much less time allowed them to prepare themselves for another world.

He was tried and convicted the 25th of February, and not executed until the 15th of May.

RICHARD FERGUSON,

(Gallopings Dick,)

CONVICTED AT THE LENT ASSIZES, 1800, AT AYLESBURY, AND EXECUTED
FOR A HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

BUT few desperadoes on the road gained so much notoriety as this daring Highwayman, and who for his bold riding, when pursued, obtained the name of Gallopings Dick.

This extraordinary character was born at a village in Herefordshire. His father was a gentleman's servant, and being frequently in London, Bath, and other places with his master, he could not consequently bestow that strict attention to the education and morals of his son which his own conduct gave every proof he would otherwise have done.

Young Dick was sent to school at a very early age, but made very little progress, nor could a master of some eminence, under whom he was afterwards for some time, instil the commonest school education into him.

He gave very early proofs of that daring, wicked disposition, which afterwards rendered him infamously noted. While among his companions, if any mischievous project was set on foot, young Dick was sure to be their leader, and promoted it as far as in his power.

At

At about fifteen years of age, Dick's father finding him make so small a progress in learning, and given to such mischievous pranks, resolved to employ him under his own eye. The coachman being at this time in want of a stable boy, young Dick was taken to fill up the vacancy. He took great delight in his new employment, and being a smart and active youth, was very much noticed in the family. As he paid particular attention to the horses, he soon made astonishing progress in the management of them.

About a year afterwards young Dick came to London with the family. During their stay in town, the postillion was taken ill, and Dick was appointed to supply his place till he recovered, which was not very long.

Dick was now stripped of his fine livery, and sent to occupy his station as a stable boy. This his haughty spirit could not brook. Fond of dress, and being thought a man of consequence, he resolved to look out for another place. Accordingly he told his father his resolution, and asked his advice. His father knowing he was well qualified, in respect to the management of horses, told him he would look out one for him.

A circumstance happened that very afternoon, highly gratifying to our hero's pride. A lady who frequently visited the family, being in want of a postillion, asked Dick's master what had become of his late postillion. Being informed he was in his place, and was very fit for her employ, he was sent for and hired.

Dick was now completely his own master, and for some time behaved to the satisfaction of his mistress. He was a great favourite in the family, particularly among the female part. He was now in his twentieth year, and though not what may be termed handsome, there was certainly something very agreeable, if not captivating, in his person. For some time he lived happily in this family, until his mistress discovering him in an improper situation with one of her female servants, discharged him immediately. Nor could any intercession afterwards prevail upon her to re-instate him.

He soon afterwards got another place, in which he did not long remain. He had at this time got connected with
some

some other servants of a loose character, and their manner of drinking, gaming, and idleness, suiting his disposition, he soon became one of them. After losing several good places, by negligence, he applied to a livery stable in Piccadilly, and obtained employment.

Dick's father now died, and left him the sum of 57l. which he had saved during the time he lived in the family. With this sum he commenced gentleman. He left his place, bought mourning, frequented the theatres, &c. One evening, at Drury-lane, he got seated by a female who particularly engaged his attention. He took her to be a modest lady, and was very much chagrined at finding her readily granting his request to conduct her home. He resolved to leave her, but found his resolution fail him, and at the end of the play he conducted her home to her residence in St. George's Fields, and stopped with her the whole night.

Next morning, after making her a handsome present, he took his leave, with a promise of soon repeating his visit. He went home, but this artful courtesan had so completely enamoured him, that he could not rest many hours without paying her another visit, and only for the accidental visit of some companions he would have returned immediately. With them he reluctantly spent the day, and in the evening flew again on the impatient wings of desire to his dear Nancy.

She, suspecting him to be a person of considerable property, from the specimen she had of his generosity, received him with every mark of endearment in her power. Indeed, she was as complete a mistress of the art of wheedling as perhaps any female of the present day. At the time Richard Ferguson became acquainted with her, she was the first favourite of several noted highwaymen and housebreakers, who, in turn, had all their favoured hours. While they could supply cash to indulge her in every species of luxury and extravagance, she would artfully declare no other man on earth shared her affections with them; but their money once expended, cold treatment, or perhaps worse, compelled them to hazard their lives for the purpose of again enjoying those favors which any thinking reasonable man would have spurned at.

Unfortunately

Unfortunately for himself, Ferguson became as complete a dupe as ever she had ensnared. What money he possessed, what he could obtain by borrowing or otherwise, was all lavished on this insatiable female, and he was, after all, in danger of being discarded. He was a total stranger to her connexions with the gentlemen of the road, though he knew she bestowed her favours on others.

Not able to bear the thoughts of entirely parting with his dear Nancy, he went to an inn in Piccadilly, offered himself as a postillion, and was accepted. Whenever he could obtain a little money, he flew with impatience to his fair Dulcinea, and squandered it away in the same thoughtless manner.

As he drove post-chaises on the different roads round the metropolis, he frequently saw his rivals on the road gaily mounted and drest. One day, driving a gentleman on the North road, the chaise was stopped by the noted Abershaw and another, with crapes over their faces. Abershaw stood by the driver till the other went up to the chaise and robbed the gentleman. The wind being very high, blew the crape off his face, and gave Ferguson a full view of his face. They stared at each other, but before a word could pass, some company coming up, the two highwaymen galloped off.

At this period Ferguson was under the frowns of his mistress, for want of money. They perfectly knew each other, from having often met together at Nancy's. Abershaw was very uneasy at the discovery, which he communicated to his companion. A consultation was immediately held, and it was resolved to wait at an inn on the road for the return of Ferguson, and bribe him, to prevent a discovery. They accordingly went to the inn, and when Ferguson came back, and stopped to water his horses, the waiter was ordered to send him in. After some conversation, Dick accepted of the present offered him, and agreed to meet them that night, to partake of a good supper.

With this fresh recruit of cash he flew to his Nancy.— But she being otherwise engaged, and not expecting him so soon to possess sufficient for her notice (being now acquainted

quainted with his situation in life) she absolutely refused to admit him, and shut the door in his face. Mad with the reception he had met with, he quitted the house, and resolved never to visit her more; which he strictly adhered to.

Ferguson, nettled to the soul, was proceeding homewards, when he met the highwayman who accompanied Abershaw, and went with him to the place of rendezvous in the Borough, where he was received by those assembled with every mark of attention. They supped sumptuously, drank wine, and spent the time in noisy mirth. This exactly suited Ferguson; he joined in their mirth, and when sufficiently elevated, very eagerly closed with a proposition to become one of their number. He was, according to their forms, immediately initiated.

When the plan of their next depredations on the public was settled, Ferguson was not immediately called into action, as it was suggested by one of the members, that he could be better employed in giving information at their rendezvous, of the departure of gentlemen from the inn where he lived, &c. whereby those who were most likely to afford a proper booty, might be way-laid and robbed. This diabolical plan he followed too successfully for some time; taking care to learn from the drivers, the time post-chaises were ordered from other inns, &c. He shared, very often, considerable sums, which he quickly squandered away in gambling, drunkenness, and debauchery.

At length he lost his place, and consequently his knowledge respecting travellers became confined, and he was obliged himself to go on the road. As a highwayman, he was remarkably successful. Of a daring disposition, he defied danger, and from his skill in horses, took care to provide himself with a good one, whereby he could effect his escape. Of this we shall mention one remarkable instance. Two others and himself stopped two gentlemen on the Edgware road, and robbed them; soon after, three other gentlemen coming up, they pursued, and Ferguson's two companions were taken, tried, and executed. When his associates complimented him on his escape, he triumphantly asserted that he would gallop a horse with any man in the kingdom.

He now indulged himself in every excess : his amours were very numerous, particularly among those married women he could, by presents or otherwise, induce to listen to his brutal desires. He prevailed upon the wives of two publicans in the Borough to elope with him, and carried on several private intrigues with others.

At one of the last places in which he lived, he was frequently employed to drive post-chaises between Hounslow and London, and notwithstanding he drove close by his old companion, Abershaw, where he hung in irons, it had no effect in altering his morals.

We have now given a faithful detail of the early part of the life of this noted highwayman, and the manner of his first taking to the road. To follow him through the various wicked exploits in which he was afterwards engaged, would require volumes to enumerate. We shall only briefly state, that he was concerned in a very great number of robberies, committed round this metropolis.

At the time that he lived at different inns, as a post-chaise driver, he went on the road, and kept up a connexion with almost every infamous character of the day. He was concerned (as appeared by the evidence of an accomplice) with Middleton, Harper, &c. in the robbery at Brixton Causeway, in 1799, and most of the other robberies committed on that road.

He latterly became very infamous. He was repeatedly in custody at Bow-street ; suspected with committing different highway robberies ; he has been tried at the Old Bailey, but nothing could be properly brought home, till the crime for which he suffered. He was apprehended by some patroles belonging to Bow-street, and taken to Bow-street ; thence conveyed to Aylesbury, Bucks ; and there tried and convicted of a highway robbery in that county.

When he found himself left for execution, he seriously prepared for his approaching end, and when he came to the fatal tree, met his awful fate with a becoming resolution, and such a religious resignation, as could only be inspired by the firm hopes of the pardon of all his transgressions, through the merits of his blessed Redeemer.

Gallopings Dick, as this unfortunate man has been styled, seemed,

seemed, indeed, to have taken a hasty road to perdition. Happy had it been for him, had he chosen the safe path of virtue, and ran a good race !

*V. MIDDLETON, J. SLATE, alias G. HOOKER,
C. EDLIN, alias ADLIN, T. HASHWELL, and
W. LEE.*

EXECUTED IN HORSEMONGER-LANE, IN THE BOROUGH, APRIL 4, 1800, FOR
DIFFERENT OFFENCES.

AT the Lent assizes, for the county of Surry, held at Kingston, twelve malefactors received sentence of death : and the five following were ordered for execution on a Friday morning : viz. John Slate, alias G. Hooker, Thomas Hashwell, William Lee, Charles Edlin, alias Adlin, and Valentine Middleton—When they received sentence, his Lordship admonished them all to prepare for their fate, and not flatter themselves with hopes of a reprieve.

On the last Sunday morning, these five unfortunate criminals were conducted to the chapel, for the purpose of hearing the condemned sermon. The gentleman who preached was the Rev. Mr. Winkworth, and he took his text from 1st Corinthians, chap. xv. ver. 56, 57.

“ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.—But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The sermon on this occasion treated upon the ill consequences of a wicked life, and concluded with an earnest exhortation to the prisoners, to make the best use of the short time they had to live in this world, as the only means of procuring them comfort and happiness in the next ; in short, the whole of the discourse was such as breathed the true spirit of christianity. The auditors consisted of nearly one thousand persons, of whom the sum of 42l. 17s. 6d. was collected at the door of the prison, which was distributed among the distressed prisoners.

John Slate, alias Hooker, was the oldest of these five most unfortunate men, being in the 32d year ; he was born in the neighbourhood of Golden-lane, and resided there

at the time he was taken ; he served his apprenticeship to a weaver : he was tried for the same robbery with Middleton, but acquitted. He was sometime since convicted of a felony in Milk-street, for which he was transported ; but returning before the expiration of his time, he was tried for that offence, and convicted.

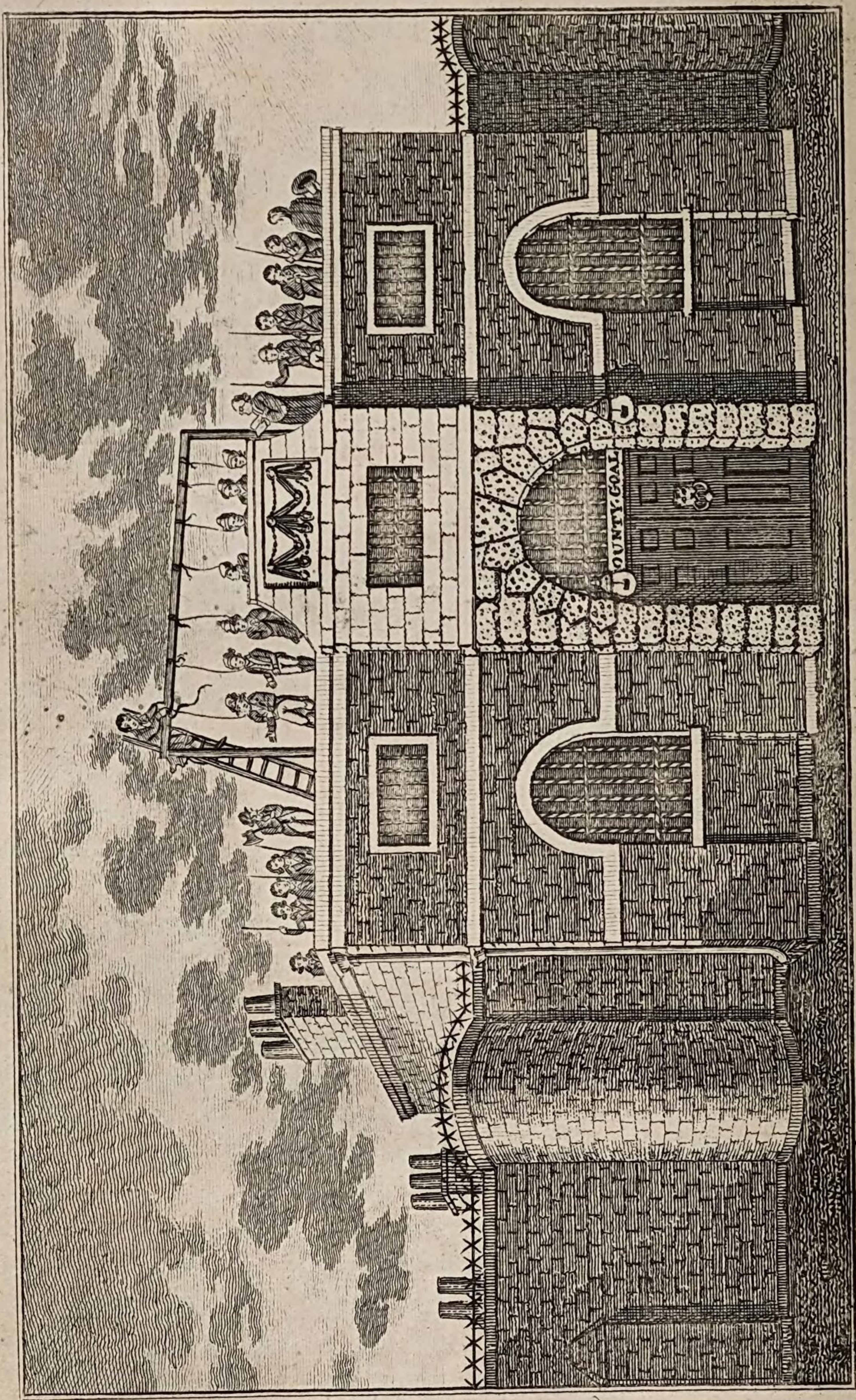
Thomas Hashwell was in his 30th year, and served his apprenticeship to a carpenter. He was brought to his untimely fate by traitorously forging and counterfeiting half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences.

Charles Edlin, alias Adlin, was in his 29th year, and followed the occupation of a labourer. He was convicted of a burglary in the dwelling house of William Simpson and J. Froom, and stealing thereout 84 calf-skins, tanned and dressed, and other goods, their property.

Valentine Middleton, aged 26, was born of creditable parents in Surry, who gave him as good an education as their circumstances would admit, and placed him an apprentice to a goldsmith. After completing his apprenticeship, he betook himself almost entirely to those wicked associates he had connected himself with ; was for some time known as a noted daring highwayman, and was concerned in most of the robberies lately committed round this metropolis. He resided in Kent-street, in the Borough, and occasionally lodged in Chick-lane. He was a companion of the infamously notorious Galloping Dick, who was executed at Aylesbury, and was concerned with him, Slate, and others (six in number) in robbing, and ill-treating Thomas Comber, driver of the East Grinstead waggon, on the 20th of August, 1799, at Brixton Causeway ; he (Middleton) acknowledged, at the time sentence was passed on him, with being the first who entered the waggon. He was brought to an untimely end by robbing John Kingman on the highway, on Wimbledon-hill. Middleton was the first who attacked him, firing a pistol, which missed Kingman.

William Lee, aged 24, was born in the neighbourhood of Old Bedlam, and worked at his trade (a pen cutter) near Chancery-lane. He was convicted on the clearest evidence of a burglary in the house of Samuel Nicholson, and stealing sundry articles.

About



Gaol for the County of Surrey

About nine o'clock, they ascended a few steps to the fatal platform, which was fixed at the top over the entrance of the gaol, and behaved in a becoming manner. When the dreadful apparatus was adjusted, the signal was given, and they were launched into eternity. After hanging the usual time their bodies were cut down.

The apparatus was fixed up the preceding day, and the different avenues to the gaol were thronged the whole afternoon. Being the first execution at that place, a vast concourse of people attended. A temporary building was erected opposite the gaol, which was crowded with spectators, as well as every place where even a glimpse of the unhappy sufferers could be obtained.

JAMES BRODIE,

(*A Blind Man,*)

WAS INDICTED AT THE ASSIZES FOR THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE MURDER OF A BOY, NAMED ROBERT SELBY HANCOCK, WHO ACTED AS HIS GUIDE.

It appeared, in evidence, that John Robinson, a warrener, went into his warren on Sunday, the 24th of March, about two o'clock in the afternoon; he saw a person, as he supposed, fishing in a rivulet: that on approaching near to him, he found him lying on his belly, upon which he called out, "Hallo! what are you doing?" The prisoner said, he was a blind man, and had been wandering about all night, and had lost his guide, the deceased, who, he said, was dead; that he had staid by him till he had taken his last gasp; that on being asked where the boy was, he said, about half a mile from thence; that the witness went to seek the boy with two men, and they found him about three miles from the place where the blind man was; that when they found the boy, he was covered all over with ling, or fearn, as much as would fill a cart: that then he was carried to Mansfield, the town near the spot, and on the boy being examined by a surgeon, the skull was found fractured in two places, head very bloody, and torn at the ear, and the shoulders and arms beat to a jelly.

The

The blind man was found with a stick, with which it is supposed he committed the murder.

The prisoner, in his defence, said, that they had lost their way ; and that the boy got up into a tree, with his assistance, to see if there was any road near ; that the boy fell from the tree, and hurt himself very much ; that just before, he had tumbled over a log of wood : that finding the boy was hurt, and that he could not stand, he covered him over with ling, in order to keep him from the cold ; and that he staid by him till he was dead.

Not one word of this defence was admitted by the jury, who instantly found him guilty, and execution, in the short time allowed to murderers, followed, at which time this culprit of darkness was but twenty-three years of age.

MARGARET HUGHES,

EXECUTED AT CANTERBURY, JULY 24, 1799, FOR MURDER.

THIS cruel woman, to the accusation of this worst of crimes, pleaded ill-treatment on the part of her murdered husband ; but we find no corroboration of such defence.

The man who beats his wife unmercifully, or without cause, is amenable to law, and therefore nothing can extenuate this crime in a wife, and more especially by the premeditated means of poison.

At the general sessions for the city of Canterbury, this woman was convicted of poisoning her husband, Thomas Hughes.

Her case was, however, referred to the opinion of the twelve judges, but she was brought to the bar soon after, and informed, that the court had awarded her former sentence, and that in consequence, her execution must take place the Wednesday following.

She was accordingly brought a few minutes before one o'clock, from West-gate, Canterbury, to a room in the gaoler's house, whence she was conducted by a gallery to the temporary gallows, erected upon a platform, about ten feet from the ground, on the North side of the Gate, and executed, according to her sentence.

Her

Her behaviour before leaving the gaol, and during the awful ceremony, was such as highly became her situation.

She received the sacrament, and joined in the devotions with the utmost fervency.

The lever was then touched, and instantly part of the platform under her feet dropped, by which she descended six or eight inches.

After remaining suspended an hour, the body was taken down, and at night delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

THOMAS CHALFONT,

A Sorter of Letters in the General Post-Office,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, NOVEMBER 11, 1800, FOR STEALING A
BANK NOTE OUT OF A LETTER.

WE greatly lament to find young men, gratuitously placed in trust in the Post-office, frequently abusing the confidence reposed in them; disgracing their friends, who necessarily must have used much interest in obtaining such places for them; and then bringing themselves to an ignominious fate.

Thomas Chalfont, aged seventeen, was indicted upon the capital charge, for that he, being a person employed in business relating to the Post-office, did feloniously steal out of a certain letter, containing three bills, a Banbury bank-bill, of the value of ten pounds, the property of Bernard Bedwell, John Yates, Bernard Bedwell, jun. and Philip Bedwell. This letter, instead of arriving on the 18th, in due course, was not received until the 19th, and then contained but two bills, the words three, in the letter, being altered to two, and the thirty to twenty.

The bill in the indictment (the one missing) was found to have been honoured at the banker's here, and for which a Bank of England note for ten pounds was given; and this individual note was proved to have passed through the hands of the prisoner, who wrote his own name upon the back of it, after several other indorsements, and paid it to the Clerk of the Receiver-General of the Post-office.

The

The jury withdrew for near an hour, and on their return pronounced him guilty.

The unfortunate youth, Thomas Chalfont, was executed on the day first-mentioned, along with John Robinson and John Price, for burglary; and Thomas Douglass, for horse-stealing.

About a year before he suffered, a letter-carrier, named John Williams, was executed at the same fatal place, for stealing a Salisbury Bank-note out of a letter entrusted to his charge; and yet this proved no warning to Chalfont.

JAMES RILEY and ROBERT NUTTS,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JUNE 24, 1801, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THESE men were capitally indicted for assaulting and taking from the person of Andrew Dennis O'Kelly, Esq.* on the king's highway, on the third of December, at Hayes, near Uxbridge, three seven shilling pieces, one half-guinea, one half-crown, and several shillings.

The prosecutor swore, that about eight o'clock on the evening of the third of December, as he was going in a post-chaise to West Wycome, he was stopped about a mile on this side Uxbridge, by three footpads.

The prisoner, Nutts, stood at the horses' heads, while the other prisoner, Riley, opened the chaise door, and demanded his money; that he gave him all the loose cash he had in his pocket, as stated in the indictment; they then demanded his pocket-book and watch; he assured them he had none; the prisoner, Nutts, then came to the other side, and searched him, and took from him some loose paper, which they afterwards returned; the third

* This gentleman was the nephew and heir of the once famous Colonel, ironically styled Count Dennis O'Kelly, the fortunate owner of Eclipse, the best racer of the English Turf. The Count, from a mean origin, was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Westminster regiment of Middlesex Militia, and at the time of the riots in London, in the year 1780, manœuvred the regiment, as Major, before the King, in review, in St. James's Park. The nephew succeeded also to the lieutenant-colonelcy, but was soon dismissed the service, by the sentence of a general court-martial.



HENRY COCK.

foot-pad, who is not yet taken, felt his breeches pocket, and took from him fifty pounds in bank notes, and a bundle of linen that lay upon the seat of the chaise. They then made off: he proceeded to the next public-house, in order to get assistance, but could not procure any, nor at Uxbridge: he was going on to West Wycombe: when he was about a mile from Uxbridge, he was overtaken by a person on horseback, who informed him that two of the men were taken: he swore particularly to one of the shillings, from a certain mark upon it.

Nibbs, the constable of Hayes, was walking on the foot-path when Colonel O'Kelly passed by in the chaise, and seeing some men on the road make up to the chaise, and suspecting they intended to rob the person inside, seeing the carriage stop, he went on to the Adam and Eve, got assistance, and he and four other persons pursued them into a field, and secured the two prisoners, but not till they had made a desperate resistance; they fired two pistols, which both fortunately flashed in the pan.

These desperadoes were convicted in January sessions, but owing to the king's then indisposition, were, with forty more condemned culprits, reserved until the 24th of June, when they suffered along with James M'Intosh and James Wooldridge, for forgery; and Joseph Roberts and William Cross, for highway robbery.

HENRY COCK,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JUNE 23, 1802, FOR FORGERY.

To the crime for which this young man suffered, was added a long series of duplicity and base ingratitude to his benefactor, the late William Storey, Esq.

This old gentleman rented the Parsonage-house at Chatham, was rich, and, having no children, appeared to have adopted this ingrate as a son. The return made to this protection was the commission of forgery, in order to rob his benefactor. His fate is still less deserving of commiseration, when we find that he had received every advantage from education, possessed a considerable know-
ledge

ledge (for his early years) of mankind, and was in the profession of the law, as an attorney, at Brewershall.

This unfortunate man, at the early age of twenty-six, was indicted for feloniously forging on the 20th of April, 1802, three papers, purporting to be letters of attorney of William Storey, of Chatham, in the county of Kent, Esq. to transfer several sums of money in the stocks of the Bank of England, and for uttering and making use of the same, knowing them to be forged.

His trial came on at the Old Bailey, before Lord Ellenborough, May 1, 1802, and occupied the greatest part of that day.

It appeared that the prisoner was a near relation to, and had received the dividends, as they became due, for Mr. Storey, who died August 14, 1801, leaving, as he thought, considerable sums in the third and fourth per cents. and 7000*l.* in the five, memorandums to that effect having been found by his executors among his papers.

Several persons to whom Mr. Storey had left different sums pressing for their legacies, Mr. Jefferies, the acting executor, drew up a kind of plan for discharging them; in which he appropriated the sums in the different funds for the payment of particular legacies, setting down 7000*l.* as in the five per cents. among the rest. Towards the end of November, this paper was shewn to, and copied by the prisoner, who was consulted by, and acted in town for the executor, and which copy was produced in Court.

So far from informing Mr. Jefferies at that time of there being no property in the five per cents. to answer the legacies he had set down against the 7000*l.* the prisoner sent two or three letters to persuade him not to sell it out till after Christmas, that they might have the benefit of the dividend. This was acceded to by the executors, who, having left it beyond the time for that purpose, were at length determined to fulfill the provisions of the will; but, on applying at the Bank, they found, to their great astonishment, that the whole of the 7000*l.* in the five per cents. had been sold out at different periods, the last in the month of August, 1801, by the prisoner, under the pretended authority of a warrant of Mr. Storey.

This warrant was produced; and Mr. Jefferies swore,
to

to the best of his belief, the signature was not the handwriting of his deceased friend.

Mr. Storey's coachman, whose name was down as one of the subscribing witnesses, denied it to be his writing; and added, that he never witnessed any paper for his late master during the number of years he had lived with him.

The name of Edward Bishop, described as a wharfinger at Rochester, appeared as another witness, according to the copy; but it was deposed by the tax-gatherer, and other inhabitants of Rochester, that no person of that name and description had been known there for the last thirty years.

To prove that the prisoner had made use of this paper, and had actually by that means obtained the money, the transfer-books were produced, and the several clerks of the Bank were called to prove the identity of his person.

Mr. Benjamin Cock, brother to the unfortunate prisoner, was one of Mr. Storey's executors; and, for the purpose of justice, had the disagreeable task of appearing in Court. He said, he had received 175l. at different periods for dividends: but when asked if he had received that sum for dividends after Captain Storey's death, he said, "I found in the banker's book 175l. It was passed to my account without my knowledge."

The prisoner, in his defence, addressed the Court in the following elegant and able manner:

"May it please your lordships, gentlemen of the jury,

"Very little capable at any time of addressing a jury of my country, I am much less able to do so upon an awful occasion like the present; yet I confess to you my feelings have been considerably relieved by the extreme, liberal, and candid manner in which the gentlemen have conducted themselves towards me this day; and I am the better enabled to address you because the result of this inquiry is so different from that which has gone forth to the world, and is so inconsistent, that I humbly look with confidence to an honourable acquittal, and towards being restored by your verdict to society.

"Gentlemen, you have an important duty to perform; you have either to restore an individual to society, or to send him to certain death; I may say certain death, be-

cause we all know that you are the dernier resort ; from your verdict there lies no appeal, and I am confident you will weigh it with judgment and with mercy, peculiarly in a case of this sort, where there is no ulterior resort whatever.

“ Gentlemen, I should not have the presumption to address you, if the law of the land had not prevented the learned gentleman, who has paid such unremitted attention to the case, from doing it for me ;—he could do me justice in much stronger terms than I can myself ; but when I look to the noble lord, who presides, and to you, gentlemen, I have nothing to fear: I trust you will allow for the inaccuracies of my speech, and that you will look at the case in all its bearings; and if you are convinced, upon the evidence that has been adduced against me, I am guilty, let me be consigned over to the laws of my country ; but if the whole tenor of my life has been according to the rule of right, if I have continued to act upon the principles of honour and honesty, and if the evidence, as far as it has gone, has been consistent with that character which has been gone into, then, gentlemen, I feel confident in the event of your verdict.

“ Gentlemen, I did think, on the part of the prosecution, there would have been a clear consistent statement before you ; I should have thought charging me to have forged this power of attorney, that they would have begun at the foundation of the crime to shew that that power of attorney was forged : they have shewn no such thing, or attempted it ; they ought to have gone on, and to have shewn you that the power of attorney, in October, 1800, was a forgery ; that they have not done. What is it we then come to ? The power of attorney in April, which is charged to be the forgery, and we will go to the evidence on which it is founded. There is one thing before that, because the gentleman has been pleased to say, that it afforded some strong presumption, and I admit that suspicious circumstances have been laid before you, but unfortunately I have not the opportunity, by evidence, of completely elucidating them, but will say, it is bare statement ; there is not positive evidence against me. I shall pass over all the different witnesses who have been
called

called as to the entries in the Bank books for form's sake, and will admit that there was such a sum as 5000*l.* sold out; the only questions you have to try, are, first, whether it was under a forged instrument; and, in the next place, whether, if it was a forged instrument, I was the perpetrator of it, or uttered it, knowing it to be forged.

“Gentlemen, the first material circumstance I shall observe upon, is this: I take it in all cases, it certainly is not possible to shew the perpetrator of the act; in this case they cannot, for it is impossible to shew the perpetration of the deed; in order to be convinced that an instrument of this sort is a forgery, you will first look to the signature of the party himself, and next to those of the attesting witnesses; what is the evidence? Taking the signatures first, I think it is clear, that I was in the habit of confidence sufficient to be entitled to receive under it; I think the gentlemen have produced to you a power of attorney, authorising me to receive dividends upon the then stock, therefore you have it before you on the shewing of the prosecution, that I was in the confidence of the testator, and was allowed to receive his dividends; was it inconsistent, therefore, that he should allow me to sell it out when necessary? And here I must make an observation upon the evidence of Mr. Peckham, who said I had received the dividends on his stock, implying that stock was gone, though it will be found, through the whole transaction, his confidence had not been broken in upon.”

Mr. Garrow here interrupted the prisoner, saying, “it is but justice, it will assist you, to declare, that respecting the servants of Mr. Storey, you conducted yourself with great fidelity.” The prisoner thanked him for correcting him, saying, he might have mistaken the evidence. He then proceeded:

“Gentlemen, you have the evidence before you of Mr. Jefferies, that this hand-writing is not, in his opinion, the hand-writing of Mr. Storey; there is not one other single witness, nor is there an iota of evidence before you, that it is my hand-writing. I will now resort to the attesting witnesses—the first is Robert Peckham; he is called, and, from his appearance, he is little conversant in hand-writing; he, however, denies that he attested it:

it: you will recollect, that it is required at the foot of instruments of this sort, the parties should not merely subscribe their names, but their residence and professions; these forms have been complied with: and I should like to know, if it is not the hand-writing of Peckham, why they have not brought you other evidence, to shew whose it is; it is not the mere signature of Robert Peckham; and is it possible for you to conceive, if they were written by me, that they would not have got persons to prove it was my writing? They ought to have gone to that point, and shewn to you that it was not merely suspected to be a forgery, but that it was a forgery created by my hand; they have attempted to effect it out of court, but they failed in effecting it in court.

“Gentlemen, Mr. Francis is asked whether there was one Edward Bishop living in Rochester; he tells you there was not. I am not disposed to quarrel with that; but the solicitors who conduct this prosecution were, so soon as the circuit was over, required to give me the names of the witnesses, which was refused, and which, if it had been complied with, I would not have been contented with calling a single tax-gatherer—I should not have stopped there—I should have sent down persons of diligence and activity, and if I found it was impossible to discover them, I should have put One Hundred Pounds Reward, in as large figures as they put for my apprehension, and called upon them, for the sake of public justice, to come and speak before you. On this part of the question, I think they have gone a very little way; they have given us very slight evidence indeed, and it merely depends upon the opinion of Mr. Jefferies, that this is not the hand-writing of Mr. Storey, who was a man afflicted with the gout, eighty years of age, and liable to a hundred variations in his hand-writing.

“Gentlemen, the greater part of this case has been occupied by enquiring not so much whether it is a forgery or not, but with reading the correspondence between me and the executors, subsequent to the death of Mr. Storey, all tending to shew, most unquestionably, that there existed, at the period of Mr. Storey’s death, 7000*l.* stock. I do not mean to deny those representations; they are proved;

proved; I would have admitted them, if my counsel would have permitted me: it is unquestionably true, I have constantly admitted to the executors, that 7000*l.* was there, and have acted upon it as such, and if the thing had remained undiscovered till this moment, I should have continued to do so; but does that prove the charge? The question is, whether it be a forgery or not? Whether their confidence was broken in upon by the conduct I pursued, and not giving me an opportunity of replacing the money, which I acknowledge is converted; but I say, there is no proof of forgery, and you have a right to infer, from the confidence placed in me by Mr. Storey, with respect to his own dealings, that I might be authorized to transfer any of the stock, and I might have gone on representing it as still standing in the books, whereas it was not; for I wished to keep the deception up, and I did keep it up to the testator till his death.

“Gentlemen, if there was any idea in my mind that I should be placed in this tremendous situation, is it possible, that on the 19th of August I should be at the Parsonage-house, and every where to be found, and my papers liable to be inspected by every body who chose—is it not more likely, that, after the death of Mr. Storey, I should have gone off with those funds which Mr. Jeffries intrusted me with? The fact is this, and you ought to try that fact, Whether it be most consistent with my representation, or with the representation made by the prosecution; then you ought to pause, and consider whether it is a forgery, and whether I am the perpetrator of it.

“Gentlemen, the probate of the will was produced to you, and I apprehend it may be read in evidence; I defy them to shew that any sum of 7000*l.* five per cents. is taken notice of by the testator, by any one letter or declaration of the testator, that he had such stock, because it does not exist: they cannot prove it—they cannot shew it.

“Gentlemen, there is another thing: when one of the witnesses was asked as to the testator’s hand-writing to this instrument, the learned judge was pleased to ask whether he spoke with as much certainty as the subject
was

was capable of? Most undoubtedly, the witness did say, I speak with as much certainty as the subject is capable of.

“Gentlemen, I have now given you a few observations, not with that ability with which they would have been given by my counsel, but in the best manner I am able, considering the agitation of my mind. Hasty, crude, and undigested as they are, arising from my unfortunate situation, I trust you will give such weight to them as you think they deserve. The correspondence between me and Mr. Storey is destroyed, and it is utterly impossible to shew his directions to me: you will give the due weight to the observations I have made, and it only remains with me to address you upon my character—that character has been in part given to you, and I flatter myself, those who will be seen here to day, will not diminish that which I have received; on that I am willing to go to a jury of my country, trusting my life in their hands, and to the law, perfectly satisfied that whatever they do, they will neither injure the one, nor sacrifice the other.”

Mr. Justice Mainwaring, Mr. Alderman Price, and several other persons in an equally respectable line of life, appeared to the prisoner's character. The jury, however, considered the fact as sufficiently proved to warrant their pronouncing a verdict of “Guilty.”

His propriety of conduct, while under sentence in Newgate, was exceedingly praiseworthy. He was frequently cheerful, but never seemed to lose sight of the awful situation in which he stood.—If, however, he appeared at one time more depressed than at another, it was after parting with a female with whom he had lived for a length of time. He was visited in his confinement by many persons of respectability. Mr. Mellish, the contractor, was one of his condoling friends. Mr. Tatlock was seldom away from him, and was the last friend he took leave of on the scaffold. The Rev. Dr. Parsons, of St. George's in the East, constantly attended him in his devotions, and took much pains to prepare his mind to meet the awful moment that awaited him. On the day previous to his execution, he wrote a letter to his brother, a respectable young man in the navy, requesting his company to sit up with him all night, which would be the last they would ever spend

spend together; and his coming to him seemed to afford him much satisfaction. In the morning when the farewell signal was given, a truly affecting scene took place between the two brothers; and, for the moment, Henry's spirit seemed to fail him; but when they were separated, he soon resumed his former composure. He was dressed in mourning on the morning of execution; and underwent his dreadful fate in penitence and with fortitude.

FRANCIS FINLAY,

CONVICTED AT THE DECEMBER SESSIONS, AT THE OLD BAILEY, IN 1802,
AND EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

HERE shall we find verified the old proverbs, that, "Honesty is the best policy," and that "Idleness is the root of all evil." This unfortunate man, who possessed the most gentlemanly appearance and address, and was connected with several families of respectability and fortune, was a native of Boston, in Lincolnshire, where his father, being a man of credit and easy fortune, was enabled to gratify the strong ambition which he felt, to give his son a polite and liberal education. Mr. Finlay passed through the rudiments of his education with eclat, and executed the tasks assigned him by his masters with a promptitude and accuracy that seemed to justify the most sanguine expectations of his delighted parents and friends. At a very early age he betrayed a strong attachment to a military life. The father, though with the greatest reluctance, at last was persuaded to indulge the ruling passion of his son, and accordingly, at the commencement of the last war, procured him an ensign's commission in a marching regiment. This regiment was soon after ordered abroad, where his bravery and good conduct gained him the esteem and affection of his companions, and caused him to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. When his regiment returned to England, Mr. Finlay was ordered upon the recruiting service; and from this period may be dated the commencement of that career of vice which at last rendered him amenable to the laws of his country.—

Idleness, that rock upon which so many have been wrecked, called forth his latent propensities with irresistible violence. Possessing an uncommon flow of animal spirits, he was extremely alive to the pleasures of society; and, having contracted an intimacy with several persons of a dissipated turn of mind, he entered into all their excesses with eagerness. It may be easily imagined, that his lieutenant's pay was very inadequate to support a life of excess and libertinism. But the force of habit became unconquerable: his commission was disposed of to recruit his finances, and to enable him a little longer to indulge a violent propensity to gaming, which he had contracted in the society of his fellow libertines. This could not hold out long, and he was at last hurried to the adoption of the most unjustifiable and desperate measures to maintain his credit with his associates.

About this period he married the daughter of a respectable shopkeeper; but his wife's fortune was inconsiderable, and was, therefore, soon dissipated in his favourite pursuits. Deprived of every honest resource of supplying his ruined finances, he was, at length, in a moment of desperation, driven to the commission of forgery; for which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, December 3, 1802, before Lord Alvanley. He was indicted for feloniously forging and uttering the same, knowing it to be forged, a certain paper, purporting to be a bill of exchange, drawn by Capt. W. Foote, of the Royal Navy, on James Sykes, Navy Agent, of Arundel-street, and accepted by him.

It appeared in evidence, that the prisoner went to a Mr. Earnshaw, a watch-maker in High Holborn, on the 26th of September, and bespoke a gold time-piece, which was to be got ready for him in the course of a week, and for which he agreed to pay sixty-five guineas: accordingly, on the 16th of October, he called again, when the time-piece being ready, it was delivered to him, and he paid for it with two bills, one of which was that laid in the indictment. Soon after Mr. Earnshaw sent the bill to Mr. Sykes, when it was instantly discovered to be a forgery.—The next day (which was on the 17th of October) the prisoner offered the time-piece as a pledge to a pawnbroker,

broker, William Burkitt, who seeming to doubt its value, the prisoner produced Earnshaw's receipt ; and in consequence of Burkitt intimating that he would advance the money, if upon enquiry he found it to be of that value, the prisoner agreed to call again in an hour. Burkitt sent to Earnshaw's in the mean time ; consequently the forgery was detected, and the prisoner, on his return, was taken into custody.

The prisoner, in his defence, set up the plea of insanity, and called one witness, the Chevalier Ruspini, who gave him a good character. There being no evidence in support of a deranged mind, the jury pronounced him guilty ; but on account of his excellent character and meritorious services, recommended him to the mercy of the sovereign : there were, however, fourteen other similar indictments against him.

Finlay's demeanor, during his trial, was not marked with that impudent levity which distinguish the Bond-street bucks, nor tinged with that despondency to which weak minds are generally subject in such a situation : it was a demeanor of modest dignity, which bespoke a consciousness of his crime, without any appearance of being appalled at the fate to which he was consigned by the violated laws of his country.

When his sentence was pronounced, he listened with a degree of calm resignation, and the air of a man who was prepared to suffer deserved punishment for a crime of which he was conscious to himself he was guilty.

This unhappy man was only 37 years of age, and was both a husband and a father. After his death warrant was signed by His Majesty, the little time that intervened between that and his execution, was employed in a manner the most exemplary, in preparing for that awful and ignominious crisis when he should be separated from every thing that was dear to him on this side eternity. He never attempted to palliate his crime, but displayed the deepest contrition for his guilt, and the most penitent resignation. He was attended almost constantly by the Rev. Mr. Crowther, rector of Christ Church, Newgate-street, and in the absence of that gentleman, by one of his fellow-prisoners, of the name of John Manley, who humanely administered all the consolation his unfortunate

situation admitted of, read to him, and joined him in prayer. A gentleman, who did not disdain to be considered as the friend of the unfortunate man, visited him daily, and assisted him with money, and other necessities.

On the morning previous to his execution, he was visited by his wife and child in prison, along with the gentleman to whom we have just now alluded, and the prisoner Manley. The scene that passed, may be more easily imagined than described. The reader may picture to himself the anguish of a wife and mother, who had been nurtured in all that delicacy and tenderness that gives double acuteness to the feelings, upon the eve of losing a beloved husband, by the hands of the common executioner. She was then about the age of thirty-two, a woman of the most elegant manners, and handsome form. The child was about eight months old. The sensations of the unfortunate criminal, were of the most agonizing sort, when he reflected upon that infatuated course of life, which had not only brought himself to an ignominious end, but had also left his beloved wife exposed to all the horrors of poverty and disgrace. Upon a promise from the gentleman before mentioned, to protect his wife and child, and screen them from the miseries of want, and the sneers of an unpitying world, he became more composed. She lingered with him till four o'clock, when it became absolutely necessary to separate. Unable to bear the emotions of agony by which she was agitated, she fainted in her husband's arms, and was carried by two men to a hackney coach, in a state of insensibility. Even the turnkeys, "albeit unused to the melting mood," did not behold this scene unmoved.

Mr. Finlay, for a few minutes after his wife's departure, seemed to be agitated, but at the same time resigned. He walked about his cell with hurried steps, clinched his hands, turned his eyes towards Heaven, and at last overcome by his feelings, exclaimed, "She is gone, and I shall never see her more on earth!" But soon recovering his composure, "I am now happy," he said, "and prepared to die; my friends cannot look coolly upon her; alas! she will have no friends but them."

The Rev. Mr. Crowther, as usual, passed a few hours
with

with him in earnest supplication to the Divine Mercy for the pardon of his sins, and particularly the crime for which he was to suffer.

On the morning of his execution, February 9, 1803, he seemed to look forward to his fate, not only with resignation, but satisfaction. He dressed with the same neatness and attention to cleanliness as usual. He eat his breakfast with the utmost composure, at five o'clock in the morning, with his faithful friend Manley. About six o'clock Mr. Crowther appeared, who passed an hour with him in fervent devotion. At seven o'clock he took the sacrament, and his irons being knocked off, the Sheriff came, to whom he was delivered by the keeper of the prison. At half past eight o'clock he mounted the scaffold with his hat and gloves on. He wore his hair cropped, half-boots, grey stockings, web pantaloons, brown coat, and waistcoat, with an outside coat of the same colour. He appeared calm and collected, and spoke for about a minute to the clergyman. The executioner then stepping forward, took off his hat, unloosed his neck-handkerchief, and fastened the fatal noose. The cap being pulled over his eyes, after he had remained about five minutes on the scaffold, he was launched into eternity.

No man ever behaved with more resignation and manly fortitude in such a situation. He seemed to be in agony for the space of three minutes, after he was turned off, during which time he held a white pocket-handkerchief in his hand, but afterwards dropped it.

The body was cut down after it had hung the usual time, and carried to Newgate prison. At one o'clock, a hearse attended to convey it away; but upon being inspected by the Sheriffs, it was found to be still warm, though it had been cut down three hours before. The Sheriffs thought it their duty to keep it for some time longer, on account of this extraordinary circumstance, and ordered that it should be called for at four o'clock, which was accordingly done.

Yet o'er his fall, may pity drop a tear,
Rememb'ring the wretchedness of the times;
O think on his disgrace! his dying fear!
And in his punishment forget his crimes.

GEORGE

GEORGE FOSTER,

EXECUTED AT NEWGATE, JANUARY 18, 1803, FOR THE MURDER OF HIS
WIFE AND CHILD, BY DROWNING THEM IN THE PADDINGTON CANAL;
WITH A CURIOUS ACCOUNT OF GALVANIC EXPERIMENTS ON HIS BODY.

THE unfortunate George Foster, whose conviction, as stated by the Lord Chief Baron in charging the jury, was most entirely upon circumstantial evidence, was put upon his trial, on the horrid charge above mentioned, at the Old Bailey, January 14, 1803.

The first witness was Jane Hobart, the mother of the deceased, who stated, that she lived in Old Boswell-court, and that for some time back, the deceased and her infant lived with her, but that she generally went on the Saturday nights to stay with the prisoner, who was her husband; that she left the witness for that purpose a little before four o'clock, on the evening of Saturday the 4th of December, taking her infant child with her; and that she never heard of her from that time until she was found drowned in the Paddington canal. The prisoner had four children by her daughter—the one above alluded to, another was dead, and two were in the workhouse at Barnet.

Joseph Bradfield, at whose house the prisoner lodged, in North-row, Grosvenor-square, saw the deceased with him on the Saturday night of the 4th of December, and they went out together about ten o'clock on the Sunday morning. The prisoner returned by himself between eight and nine o'clock at night, which did not appear remarkable, as the deceased was not in the habit of sleeping there, except on the Saturday nights. This witness did not consider them to be on very good terms, arising, as he believed, from the deceased's wishing to live with the prisoner: she used to call at his lodgings once or twice in the week, besides the Saturdays, on which nights she always waited to get some money from him. On the Sunday following, the prisoner and another person went with the witness to see his mother at Highgate, and on their return, the prisoner asked if his wife had been at his lodgings; but which on his cross-examination, he admitted
might

might arise from his being surprised at her not coming as usual.

Margaret Bradfield, wife of the last witness, corroborated his testimony, with the addition, that on the Wednesday she saw the child which had been found in the Paddington Canal, and which she was positive was the same that the deceased had taken out with her on the Sunday morning.

Eleanor Winter, who kept what was usually called the Spotted Dog, but which is now called the Wellbourne Green Tavern, about two or three miles from Paddington, along the canal, swore that she perfectly recollected the prisoner's coming to her house on the morning of the 5th of December, with a woman, and a child with him: they stayed at her house, where they had some beef-steaks, beer, and two glasses of brandy, till near one o'clock.—While they were there, she observed the woman to be crying, and heard her say, she had been three times there to meet a man who owed her husband some money, and that she would come no more. This witness had seen the body of the woman that was found in the canal, and she was certain of its being the same woman, who was with the prisoner at her house, on the above morning.

John Goff, waiter at the Mitre tavern, about two miles further on the canal, related, that the prisoner, with a woman and child, came to their house some time about two o'clock on Sunday the 5th of December: they had two quarterns of rum, two pints of porter, and went away about half past four. The Mitre is situated on the opposite side of the canal to the towing path; and when the prisoner and the woman went away, they turned towards London on that side of the canal, though there was no path-way, and it would take them at least a quarter of an hour to get to the first swing-bridge to cross over; there was a way to pass through a Mr. Fillingham's grounds, which would lead them to the Harrow-road, and which he believed to be much nearer than the side of the canal: but then persons going that way got over the hedge, and he perceived, from the kitchen window where he was standing, the prisoner and the woman go beyond that spot. They had no clock in the house, but he had no doubt as to the
the

the time, from its being very near dark when they went away. On being questioned by one of the jury, he said, that besides the place to which he alluded for passing through Mr. Fillingham's ground, there was a gate about one hundred yards further on, and to which the prisoner and woman had not got over when he lost sight of them.

Hannah Patience, the landlady of the Mitre tavern, recollected seeing the prisoner there on Sunday, Dec. 5, with a woman and child: they had been there a good while before she saw them. She served them with a quarter of rum, and they had a pint of beer after it. They left the Mitre about half past four, as far as she could judge from the closing of the evening, for they had no clock.—She also recollected Sarah Daniels coming to buy a candle to take to her master: they were then gone, and as they were going out, the woman threw her gown over the child, saying, “This is the last time I shall come here.”—In a minute or two the prisoner came back to look for the child's shoe, which could not be found, and then followed the woman. This witness took no particular notice of them, but thought she had seen them at her house two or three times before.

Sarah Daniels, aged nine years, was examined by the court as to her knowledge of the sanctity and solemnity of an oath, and being satisfied with her answers, she was sworn, and said, that she met a man following a woman with a child, walking by the canal, as she was going from Mr. Fillingham's to the Mitre; and from the circumstance of its being near their time of drinking tea, she was sure that it could not want much of five o'clock.

Charles Weild, a shopmate of the prisoner, stated, that he met him a little after six o'clock, in Oxford street, on the evening of Sunday the 5th of December, and that they went together to the Horse Grenadier public-house, where they continued till after eight.

John Atkins, a boatman employed on the canal, said, about eight o'clock, on the morning of Monday, he found a child's body under the bow of the boat, at the distance of a mile from the Mitre; that in consequence of some directions which he received from Sir Richard Ford, he dragged the canal for three days, on the last of which,
close

close under the window of the Mitre, he pulled up the woman's body, entangled in a loose bush. He had before then felt something heavy against the drag, at near 200 yards towards London from the house, but he could not ascertain whether that was the body or not.

Sir Richard Ford produced the examination which the prisoner signed at Bow-street Office, after being questioned as to its being the truth, and cautioned as to the consequences it might produce. The account which the prisoner then gave was as follows:

“My wife and child came to me on Saturday se'n night, about eight o'clock in the evening, and slept at my lodgings that night. The next morning, about nine or ten o'clock, I went out with them, and walked to the New Cut at Paddington: we went to the Mitre Tavern, and had some rum, some porter, and some bread and cheese. Before that we had stopped at a public-house near the first bridge, where we had some beef-steaks and some porter; after which she desired me to walk further on by the cut, so I went with her. I left her directly I came out of the Mitre Tavern, which was about three o'clock, and made the best of my way to Whetstone, in order to go to Barnet, to see two of my children, who are in the workhouse there. I went by the bye lanes, and was about an hour and a half walking from the Mitre to Whetstone. When I got there, I found it so dark that I would not go on to Barnet, but came home that night. I have not seen my wife nor child since; I have not enquired after them, but I meant to have done so to-morrow evening, at Mrs. Hobart's.—I came home from Whetstone that evening between seven and eight o'clock; I saw no person in going to Whetstone; nor did I stop any where, at any public-house, or elsewhere, *except the Green Dragon, at Highgate, where I had a glass of rum.** My wife had a black gown on, and a black bonnet; the child had a straw bonnet, and white bed-gown. My wife was a little in liquor.

(Signed)

“GEORGE FOSTER.

“Witness, Richard Ford,
December 27, 1802.”

* The words in Italic were interlined, and the latter part added at the prisoner's request.

“Prisoner says, before he left the Mitre Tavern, on the said Sunday, his wife asked the mistress of the inn whether she could have a bed there that night, which the prisoner afterwards repeated; that she asked half a crown for one, which the prisoner and his wife thought too much, and the latter said she would go home to her mother.”

The latter part of this was positively contradicted by the landlady, not a single word about a bed having passed between her and the deceased.

W. Garner, a shopmate of the prisoner, called upon him at the Brown Bear, in Bow-street, after he was taken into custody; to whom the prisoner said, he was as innocent of the charge as the child unborn; and that if any one would come forward to say, or swear, that he was at such a place on that night, he should be cleared immediately. The witness understood him to refer to the Green Dragon, at Highgate.

James Bushwell, a coach-maker, declared, that the prisoner was one of the most diligent men he had ever employed; and, from his having so very good an opinion of him, on hearing he was in custody, he went himself to see if he could render him any service; that upon his making that offer, the prisoner replied, that if it was not too much trouble, he would thank him to go to the Green Dragon, at Highgate, and enquire if a man was not there on the Sunday evening, who had a glass of rum, and asked after Mrs. Young: with which he complied; but, as the rules of evidence would not admit of Mr. Bushwell giving the answer,

Elizabeth Southall, who keeps the Green Dragon, was called, who said she perfectly recollected such a circumstance, but she could not exactly say what Sunday it was; and, besides, the man who did so enquire, had a woman with an infant in her arms with him, and to whom the man turned round and said, That is Bradfield's mother.

The prisoner made no other defence than contradicting some parts of the evidence of the waiter at the Mitre.

George Hodgson, Esq. coroner of the county, and before whom an inquest on these bodies had been taken, said there was not the least mark of violence upon either
the

the woman or the child ; of course, the report of the latter's arm being broken was false.

From being acquainted with the place, he was examined particularly as to the way through Mr. Fillingham's grounds, and which he affirmed to be far the nearest way to town. He could not undertake to say what the actual distance from the Mitre to Whetstone was, but he was sure it could not be less, even through the lanes and over the fields, than seven or eight miles, and about the same distance from Whetstone to town.

Four witnesses were called to the prisoner's character, who all agreed in his being an industrious and humane man.

The Chief Baron, in summing up to the jury, said, that this was a case which almost entirely depended upon circumstances, but in some cases that might be best evidence, as it was certainly the most difficult, if not impossible, to fabricate : they, however, would deliberately judge how far they brought the charge home to the prisoner, so as not to leave a doubt on their minds before they pronounced him guilty. His lordship noticed some inconsistencies in the written paper which the prisoner had signed, observing, that in one part of the story the prisoner was contradicted by several witnesses ; and that it was scarcely to be presumed that the prisoner could walk such a distance (from the Mitre to Whetstone) in so short a time. There were other traits of the story which were also extremely dubious. The learned judge then went through the whole of the evidence, remarking thereon as he proceeded ; and the jury, after some consultation, pronounced a verdict of guilty.

This was no sooner done, than the Recorder proceeded to pass sentence upon the prisoner ; which was, that he be hanged by the neck, next Monday morning, until he be dead, and that then his body be delivered to be anatomized, according to the law in that case made and provided.

This unfortunate malefactor was executed pursuant to his sentence, January 18, 1803. At three minutes after eight he appeared on the platform before the debtor's door in the Old Bailey, and after passing a short time in

prayer with Dr. Ford, the Ordinary of Newgate, the cap was pulled over his eyes, when, the stage falling from under him, he was launched into eternity.

When he ascended the platform his air was dejected in the extreme ; and the sorrow manifested in his countenance depicted the inward workings of a heart conscious of the heinous crime he had committed, and the justness of his sentence.

From the time of his condemnation to the moment of his dissolution, he had scarcely taken the smallest nourishment ; which, operating with a tortured conscience, had so enfeebled him, that he was obliged to be supported from the prison to the gallows, being wholly incapable of ascending the staircase without assistance. Previous to his decease, he fully confessed his having perpetrated the horrible crime for which he suffered :—confessed that he had unhappily conceived a most inveterate hatred for his wife, that nothing could conquer, and determined him to rid himself and the world of a being he loathed :—acknowledged also, that he had taken her twice before to the Paddington Canal, with the wicked intent of drowning her, but that his resolution had failed him, and she had returned unhurt ; and even at the awful moment of his confession, and the assurance of his approaching dissolution, he seemed to regret more the loss of his infant, than the destruction of the woman he had sworn to cherish and protect. He was questioned, as far as decency would permit, if jealousy had worked him to the horrid act ; but he made no reply, except saying, that “he ought to die ;” and dropped into a settled and fixed melancholy, which accompanied him to his last moments. He was a decent looking young man, and wore a brown great coat, buttoned over a red waistcoat, the same in which he was tried.

He died very easy ; and, after hanging the usual time, his body was cut down, and conveyed to a house not far distant, where it was subjected to the Galvanic process, by Professor Aldini, under the inspection of Mr. Keate, Mr. Carpue, and several other professional gentlemen. M. Aldini, who is the nephew of the discoverer of this most interesting science, shewed the eminent and superior

rior powers of Galvanism to be far beyond any other stimulant in nature. On the first application of the process to the face, the jaws of the deceased criminal began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and one eye was actually opened. In the subsequent part of the process, the right hand was raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion.* Mr. Pass, the beadle of the Surgeons' Company, having been officially present during this experiment, was so alarmed, that he died soon after his return home of the fright. Some of the uninformed bystanders thought that the wretched man was on the eve of being restored to life. This, however, was impossible, as several of his friends, who were under the scaffold, had violently pulled his legs, in order to put a more speedy termination to his sufferings. The experiment, in fact, was of a better use and tendency. Its object was to shew the excitability of the human frame, when this animal electricity is duly applied. In cases of drowning or suffocation, it promises to be of the utmost use, by reviving the action of the lungs, and thereby rekindling the expiring spark of vitality. In cases of apoplexy, or disorders of the head, it offers also most encouraging prospects for the benefit of mankind.

The professor, we understand, has made use of Galvanism also in several cases of insanity, and with complete success. It is the opinion of the first medical men, that this discovery, if rightly managed and duly prosecuted, cannot fail to be of great, and perhaps, as yet, unforeseen, utility.

* An experiment was made on a convict, named Patrick Redmond, who was hanged for a street-robbery, on the 24th of February, 1767, in order to bring him to life. It appears that the sufferer had hung twenty-eight minutes, when the mob rescued the body, and carried it to an appointed place, where a surgeon was in attendance to try the experiment *bronchotomy*, which is an incision in the wind-pipe, and which in less than six hours produced the desired effect. A collection was made for the poor fellow, and interest made to obtain his pardon. For it will be remembered, that the law says, the condemned shall *hang until he is dead*; consequently men, who, like Redmond, recovered, are liable to be again hanged up until they are dead.

LAWRENCE

*LAWRENCE INNIS,**(A British Seaman,)*

EXECUTED ON PENNENDEN-HEATH, JANUARY 21, 1803, FOR MURDER.

IN action against the enemies of his country, how courageous is the British seaman; and when his foe has yielded to superior valour, compassion and generosity possess his noble heart.

In peace, and deprived of the element which habit had rendered most natural to him, he considers the shore alone fit for recreation and idleness. His mind inactive, he oft becomes sullen and discontented; and having no natural enemy to combat, he quarrels with, and falls upon, his own messmate.

In the present unfortunate case, both the murderer and the murdered had been seamen in the British navy, and both were pensioners in Greenwich Hospital.

Lawrence Innis was tried at Maidstone Lent assizes, 1803, for the wilful murder of John Price.

John Miller, a witness for the prosecution, deposed, that he was a Greenwich pensioner, and his birth was in the Clarence Ward: his cabin was next to that in which the deceased slept. On Tuesday night, the 20th of January, just as he was in bed, he heard the prisoner and the deceased come up the gallery together; they were talking; the deceased said to the prisoner, "Go to bed, and then there will be no more on't." The prisoner replied, "I won't." The prisoner then went away to the fire-place in the hall, but soon returned to the cabin-door of the deceased, and cried out, "Price! Price! Jack! Jack!" to which the deceased did not answer. The prisoner then went away, but shortly after returned a second time, and called out as before. The deceased then answered him, and said to the prisoner, "You will prepare to appear before the captain of the month to-morrow.—I have you upon the *complaint*, for striking me to-day at the Tyger's Head, in London-street." To this the prisoner replied, "Then you have done me, have you?—but d—n you, I'll do you in return." The prisoner accompanied these words by a blow, which knocked the
deceased

deceased down. The deceased called out, "Murder!" upon which the witness jumped out of bed, and the prisoner was secured; and the next morning he was carried before the committee, and mulcted two months' tobacco-money for his ill behaviour. This was the morning preceding the night of the murder. As he came out of the committee-room, he said to the witness, "Miller, you have borne false witness against me, but I hope to God I shall live to seek revenge." On the same evening he did not see the prisoner till eleven o'clock; he then saw both Price and Innis go to their cabins. After he had been in bed a short time, he heard the prisoner come out of his cabin, and go to the cabin of the deceased. From that he went to the fire-place in the hall as fast as he could go. He returned a second time to Price's cabin. He stayed a second or two, and then again went to the fire-place, and once more returned to Price's cabin. In a little time he heard him shut the door softly, and thought no more of it till about quarter of an hour afterwards, Bryan came to him, and told him for God's sake to get up, as the boatswain, Price, was murdered.

John Hawford, another pensioner, corroborated the above account.

James Bryan gave evidence as follows:—"I lay in the same cabin with the deceased; we were talking together not ten minutes before he was murdered. The prisoner's cabin was nearly opposite to our's. I heard the prisoner open our door softly, and he looked in; we appeared both asleep. As soon as he looked in, he went away towards the hall fire-place. He had on a great coat and two night-caps. He came back, and when he came in our cabin, he looked at me attentively. He again went away, and returned with the poker. He turned round, and gave me another attentive look, and immediately after struck Price four or six heavy blows on the head. At the first blow his head crashed, but I don't know whether the others hit him. As soon as he had done it, he again turned and looked at me, but I lay still as though asleep. He then went out, and hauled the door softly after him, but did not lock it. As soon as he was gone, I got up and gave the alarm, and the prisoner was secured."

James

James Curran, another pensioner, described the state in which he found the deceased.

The prisoner's defence was, "that the witnesses were in a conspiracy against him;" but the jury instantly found him guilty.

He was executed, and his body dissected in the Hospital.

Colonel Edward Marcus Despard, John Francis, John Wood, Thomas Broughton, James Sedwick Wrattton, Arthur Graham, and John Macnamara,

EXECUTED IN HORSEMONGER-LANE, SOUTHWARK, FEBRUARY 21, 1803,
FOR HIGH TREASON.

"SUCH disclosures have been made, as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious, abominable, and traitorous conspiracy, were to overthrow the government, and to seize upon and destroy the sacred person of our august and reverend sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his royal house."

Lord Ellenborough, in passing sentence.

If such were the objects aimed at by these men, as the noble and learned judge declared to have been the case, it was certainly the most vain and impotent attempt ever engendered in the distracted brain of an enthusiast. Without arms, or any probable means, a few dozen men, the very dregs of society, led on by a disappointed and disaffected chief, were to overturn a mighty empire; nor has it appeared that any man of their insignificant band of conspirators, Colonel Despard alone excepted, was above the level of the plebeian race. Yet so it was, that a small party of this description, seduced to disloyalty by a leader whose conduct could not possibly have proceeded from a sound mind, brooding over their vain attempts at a mean public-house in St. George's Fields, alarmed the nation.

Before we enter upon this memorable trial, we shall shew the *exact class of the million* to which this rebellious banditti belonged.

Edward



COLONEL DESPARD.



COLONEL BENJAMIN VAN DYKE

Years,

Edward Marcus Despard, a colonel in the				
army, aged	-	-	-	50
John Francis, a private soldier,	-	-	-	23
John Wood, ditto	-	-	-	36
Thomas Broughton, a carpenter,	-	-	-	26
James Sedgwick Wratten, a shoemaker,	-	-	-	35
John Macnamara, a carpenter,	-	-	-	50
Arthur Graham, a slater,	-	-	-	53

And, still more shocking to relate, all of them married men, leaving numerous offsprings to bewail their fathers' fate, and their own loss ! There were others of the gang tried and acquitted, and some pardoned.

Colonel Despard, the ill-starred leader of these misguided men, was descended from a very ancient and respectable family, in the Queen's County, in Ireland. He was the youngest of six brothers, all of whom, except the eldest, had served their country, either in the army or navy.

In 1766, he entered the army as an ensign, in the 5th regiment ; in the same regiment he served as a lieutenant, and in the 79th he served successively, as lieutenant, quarter-master, captain lieutenant, and captain.—From his superior officers he received many marks of approbation, particularly from General Calcraft, of the 50th, General Meadows, and the Duke of Northumberland. He had been for the last twenty years, detached from any particularly corps, and entrusted with important offices.

In 1779, he was appointed chief engineer to the St. Juan expedition, and conducted himself so as to obtain distinguished attention and praise.

He also received the thanks of the Council and Assembly of Jamaica, for the construction of public works there ; and was, in consequence of these services, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, to be commander in chief of the island of Rattan, and its dependencies, and of the troops there, and to rank as lieutenant-colonel and field-engineer, and commanded, as such, on the Spanish-main, in Rattan, and on the Musquito-shore, and Bay of Honduras.

After this, at Cape Gracious a Dios, he put himself at the head of the inhabitants, who voluntary solicited him to take the command, and retook from the Spaniards Black River, the principal settlement of the coast. For this service he received the thanks of the governor, council, and assembly of Jamaica, and of the king himself.

In 1783, he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

In 1784, he was appointed first commissioner for settling and receiving the territory ceded to Britain, by the sixth article of the definitive treaty of peace with Spain, in 1783.

He so well discharged his duty as a colonel, that he was appointed superintendant of his Majesty's affairs, on the coast of Honduras, which office he held much to the advantage of the crown of England, for he obtained from that of Spain some very important privileges. The clashing interests, however, of the inhabitants of this coast, produced much discontent, and the Colonel was, by a party of them, accused of various misdemeanors to his Majesty's ministers.

He now came home, and demanded that his conduct should be investigated; but, after two years' constant attendance on all the departments of government, was at last told by the ministers, that there was no charge against him worthy of investigation, and that his Majesty had thought proper to abolish the office of superintendant at Honduras, otherwise he should have been reinstated in it; but he was then, and on every occasion, assured, that his services should not be forgotten, but in due time meet their reward.

While in the Bay of Honduras, the colonel married a native of that place.

The colonel, it seems, irritated by continual disappointments, began now to vent his indignation in an unguarded manner; consequently he became a suspicious character, and was for some time a prisoner in Coldbath Fields, under the habeas-corpus act, then lately passed, and which empowered ministers to keep in confinement all suspected characters.

Imprisonment increased the rancour of his heart, and on his liberation he could not conceal his malignancy towards

towards government. Thus enflamed, he endeavoured to inflame others, and at length brought upon himself, and those poor ignorant wretches who were seduced by his arguments, disgrace and death.

On the 16th of November, 1802, in consequence of a search-warrant, a numerous body of the police-officers went to the Oakley-arms, Oakley-street, Lambeth, where they apprehended Colonel Despard, and near forty labouring men and soldiers, many of them Irish. The next morning they were all brought up before the magistrates at Union-Hall. The result of the examination was, that Colonel Despard was committed to the county-goal, and afterwards to Newgate; twelve of his low associates (six of whom were soldiers) were sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell, and twenty to the New Prison, Clerkenwell. Ten other persons, who had been found in a different room, and who appeared to have no concern whatever with the colonel's party, were instantly discharged.

The colonel's conduct, during all his examinations, was invariably the same: he was silent during the whole.

The Privy Council, the more effectually to try the prisoners, issued a Special Commission.

The trial of Colonel Despard came on on Monday the 7th of February. The indictment, which consisted of three counts, having been read, the prosecution was opened by the attorney-general, who in a very eloquent and impartial manner laid before the jury the whole of the charges.

“ The prisoner, Edward Marcus Despard, with the other prisoners, William Lander, Thomas Broughton, John Macnamara, James Wratten, John Wood, John Francis, Arthur Graham, Thomas Newman, and Daniel Tyndall, &c. formed a society at the Oakley-arms, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth. The most active members were Francis and Wood, and their drift was to overturn the government.

His Majesty having intended to meet his parliament a week earlier than he actually did (on the 16th of January, instead of the 23d,) they designed on that day to carry into effect their plan, by laying restraint upon

the king's person, and destroying him. They frequently attempted to seduce soldiers into the association, in which they sometimes succeeded, and sometimes failed. Francis administered unlawful oaths to those that yielded, and among others, to Blades and Windsor, giving them at the same time, two or three copies of the oath, that they might be enabled to make proselytes in their turn.

Windsor soon after becoming dissatisfied, gave information of the conspiracy to a Mr. Bonus, and shewed him a copy of the oath. This gentleman advised him to continue a member of the association, that he might learn whether there were any persons of consequence engaged in it.

On the Friday before the intended assassination of his Majesty, a meeting took place, when Broughton prevailed upon two of the associates to go to the Flying Horse, Newington, where they would meet with a *nice man*, which *nice man*, as he styled him, was the prisoner Despard.

The first witness was John Stafford, clerk to the magistrates of Union-hall who apprehended Colonel Despard, as before stated. They were about thirty persons in the room, and they were all, except the colonel, of the lowest class, and very meanly dressed.

The printed papers found in the room were then produced and read, consisting of the form of the oath, &c. This witness's evidence was corroborated by the depositions of other constables who had accompanied him.

Thomas Windsor, the chief witness, declared the manner in which he took the oath, and the plan of the conspiracy. Having mentioned the intended mode of proceeding, he said the prisoner observed that the attack should be made on the day when his Majesty should go to the parliament-house, and that his Majesty must be put to death; at the same time the prisoner said, "I have weighed the matter well, and my heart is callous!"

After the destruction of the king, the mail-coaches were to be stopped, as a signal to the people in the country, that the revolt had taken place in town. The prisoner then desired the witness to meet him the ensuing morning, at half past eleven o'clock, on Tower-hill, and
to

to bring with him four or five intelligent men, to consider upon the best manner for taking the Tower, and securing the arms. The witness accordingly met him at the Tyger public-house, on Tower-hill, having brought with him two or three soldiers. The prisoner now repeated his declaration, that the king must be put to death; and Wood promised, when the king was going to the house, he would post himself as centry over the great gun in the Park; that he would load it, and fire at his Majesty's coach, as he passed through the Park.

The several meetings, consultations, &c. were further proved by William Campbell, Charles Read, Joseph Walker, Thomas Blades, and other witnesses.

Mr. Serjeant Best, in behalf of the prisoner, dwelt upon the incredibility of the witnesses. They were characters of no worth; and he urged that the printed papers which were found were not sufficiently proved to be connected with the prisoner; that the scheme was too romantic ever to be seriously imagined; there were no arms—not a pike, a pistol, or a rusty musket; in fact, the attempts of the heroes of the Oakley-arms, as set forth, far exceeded all the wild sallies of Don Quixote.

Lord Nelson gave a most excellent character of the prisoner. They were on the Spanish main together, they served together; and he declared him to have been a loyal man, and a good officer. On cross-examination his lordship said, he had not seen him since the year 1780.

Sir Alured Clarke and Sir Evan Nepean bore testimony of his having been a zealous officer.

Mr. Gurney, the other counsel for the prisoner, addressed the jury in an able speech; and the Solicitor-General having replied on the part of the crown, Lord Ellenborough began to sum up nearly as follows:

“ Gentlemen of the Jury,

“ The prisoner stands charged with high treason, of three sorts, not very different in their nature.—First, for compassing the death of the king—next, for compassing to seize his person—and thirdly, for conspiring to depose him. The first of these is treason by the statute of Edward

ward III. The two last, by a recent statute of the present reign. Eight distinct overt acts are stated as evidences of this intention.

“Gentlemen, the overt acts are the holding conversations for effecting those malignant purposes of the heart. The defendant’s counsel say, that the proof consists only of words, and that it cannot be treason. If it consisted only of loose words, the ebullition of an irritated or crazy mind, it would not be treason, because it would be too much to infer such a purpose as the destruction of the king from words so spoken. But when words are spoken at a public meeting, and addressed to others, exciting and persuading them to that purpose, it never was doubted by any one English lawyer; it never will be doubted, but that they amount to treason. Another subject upon which I wish to say a few words is, the nature of evidence by accomplices. That he is a competent witness, upon whose testimony you may found a conclusion, cannot be doubted. If it were not so, it would be a dereliction of duty in the judges sitting here, and those who have formerly sat in courts of justice, not to have repelled such witnesses from the oath, and have told the jury that they were not fit to be credited. But they are always received; and although sullied with the contamination of the crime which they impute to others, they are credible, though their testimony must be received with caution.”

His Lordship here read, verbatim, the whole of the evidence taken throughout the day.

“Now, Gentlemen, this is the whole evidence; see how it applies to the charge—First, with respect to an overt act committed within the county; it is proved at the Oakley-arms, and at the Flying-horse—that point of law is therefore satisfied. The only remaining consideration is, whether you will believe the evidence of Blades, Windsor, Emblyn, and Francis, or any of them. You have heard the high character given of the prisoner by a man, on whom to pronounce an eulogium were to waste words, but you are to consider whether a change has not taken place since the period he speaks of.”

The jury, after about half an hour’s conversation, returned

turned the verdict "Guilty," but earnestly recommended him to mercy on account of his former good character, and the services he had rendered his country.

The prisoner, during the whole of his trial, appeared very composed, nor did he exhibit any marks of agitation when the verdict was returned.

On the following Wednesday, February 9, the trial of the other prisoners took place, when the same circumstances, by chiefly the same witnesses, being repeated, nine (already named) out of twelve were found guilty, three of whom were recommended to mercy.

The usual question was then asked each separately,

"What he had to say that sentence should not be pronounced?" When Colonel Despard remarked, that he had been tried and convicted on the evidence of such men as ought not to be listened to; he was charged with seducing certain soldiers—nothing could be more false; he declared he never had the smallest conversation with them on the subject.

Lord Ellenborough, in a style of awful solemnity highly befitting the melancholy but just occasion, addressed the prisoners nearly to the following purport:—"You (calling each prisoner separately by name) have been separately indicted for conspiring against his Majesty's person, his crown, and government, for the purposes of subverting the same, and changing the government of this realm. To this indictment you have pleaded "not guilty," and put yourselves for trial by God and your country, which country has found you guilty. After a long, patient, and I hope, just and impartial trial, you have been all of you severally convicted, by a most respectable jury of your country, upon the several crimes laid to your charge. In the course of evidence upon your trial, such disclosures have been made, as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious and traitorous conspiracy were, to overthrow the government, and to seize upon and destroy the sacred persons of our august and revered sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his royal house, which some of you, by the most solemn bond of your oath of allegiance, were pledged, and all of you, as his Majesty's subjects, were

were indispensibly bound, by your duty, to defend ; to overthrow that constitution, its established freedom, and boasted usages, which have so long maintained among us that just and rational equality of rights, and security of property, which have been for so many ages the envy and admiration of the world ; and to erect upon its ruins a wild system of anarchy and bloodshed, having for its object the subversion of all property, and the massacre of its proprietors ; the annihilation of all legitimate authority and established order—for such must be the import of that promise held out by the leaders of this atrocious conspiracy, of ample provision for the families of “ those heroes who should fall in the struggle.” The more effectually to insure success in those evil machinations, and to encourage those who were to be seduced to their support, endeavours have been made by you and your accomplices, to seduce from their allegiance to their sovereign the soldiers of his Majesty ; endeavours which, though they appear to have been in too many instances successful, yet I hope falsely said to be in that extent stated in evidence. Equally false, I hope, has been another assertion, that two-thirds of the inhabitants of this country were ready for a change, and prepared to support and adopt such measures as were likely to be most effectual for obtaining it ; a change, by which no less was contemplated than the subversion of all the sources of law, order, and public justice, and the substitution of massacre, anarchy, and all their dire effects. It has, however, pleased that Divine Providence, which has mercifully watched over the safety of this nation, to defeat your wicked and abominable purpose, by arresting your projects in their dark and dangerous progress, and thus averting that danger which your machinations had suspended over our heads ; and by your timely detection, seizure, and submittal to public justice, to afford time for the many thousands of his Majesty’s innocent and loyal subjects, the intended victims of your atrocious and sanguinary purpose, to escape that danger which so recently menaced them, and which, I trust, is not yet become too formidable for utter defeat. Happily for the families and persons of thousands of your wicked and deluded

luded accomplices, your detection has in time, I hope, served to avert the calamities in which they would have inevitably involved themselves, as well as their innocent fellow-citizens. The vigilance of that government, unceasingly directed to the public security, was not to be eluded by the dark and mysterious secrecy under which you endeavoured to make your wicked designs. Your very endeavours to propagate and promote your projects have been the sources of your defeat; and thus it has happened, that when you imagined your vile purposes to be nearest their completion, they have been fortunately discovered by the very means through which you intended to put them in execution; and thus the intended victims, who were on the eve of being involved in all the horrors of your projects, have fresh cause to acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of that all-provident God, who has thus timely, and I hope, for ever, put a stop to your diabolical plans. As to you, deluded victims of a desperate and abandoned conspiracy, before I conclude the awful task which remains for me to perform, I wish to say a few words to you on the enormity of those crimes which have brought you to your present melancholy and ignominious situation. And first, you, Edward Marcus Despard, in whom the dignified pride of birth, the advantages of a liberal education, and the habits of intercourse in that rank in which your conduct was once so highly honourable, and from whom the testimony borne of your former conduct, by the honourable companions of your earlier pursuits, adduced in this court as witnesses for your character, should have induced us to expect widely different conduct and principles. How grossly have you misapplied and abused the talents and opportunities which you enjoyed for honourable distinction in society! and how have you degraded yourself to the association of those unfortunate and wretched companions, by whom you are now surrounded, in whose ignominious fate you so justly share, but who are the unhappy victims of your seductive persuasion and example. I do not wish, at this awful moment, to urge any thing to you and the degrading companions by whom you are surrounded, to sharpen the bitterness of your feelings, under the ignominy

of your fate, but I would most earnestly and sincerely wish to impress your mind, during the short period of your remaining life, with a due sense of your awful situation, and of the criminal conduct which has involved you in your present ignominious fate; I would earnestly intreat you zealously to endeavour to subdue the callous insensibility of heart, in which, in an ill-fated moment, you have boasted, and regain that sanative affection of the mind, which may prepare your soul for that salvation, which, by the infinite mercy of God, I beseech of that God you may obtain.

“And as to you, unhappy prisoners, the wretched victims of his seduction and example, to what a dreadful and ignominious fate have you brought yourselves, and what sorrow and affliction have been entailed upon your wretched families, by the atrocity of your crimes, and your purposed and sanguinary attempts to subvert that happy constitution and government, under the mild protection of which you might still have continued to pursue industrious avocations, and enjoy with comfort the fruits of your honest and peaceful labours; and the unexampled mildness and merciful tendency of whose laws you have this day experienced in a long, patient, fair, and most impartial trial, before that respectable and discerning jury, who have convicted you on the most uncontroverted evidence of your guilt.

“May the awful and impressive example of your untimely fate prove a warning to your wicked associates and accomplices in every quarter of this realm, and induce them to abandon those machinations which have brought you to this disgraceful catastrophe! May they learn to avoid your fate, by cultivating the blessings of that constitution which you have calumniated and endeavoured to subvert, and by pursuing their honest and industrious avocations, and avoiding political cabals and seditious conspiracies.

“The only thing remaining for me is the painful task of pronouncing against you, and each of you, the awful sentence which the law denounces against your crime, which is, that you, and each of you, (here his lordship named the prisoners severally,) be taken to the place from

from whence you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck, but not until you are dead, for while you are still living, your bodies are to be taken down, your bowels torn out and burnt before your faces ; your heads are to be then cut off, and your bodies divided each into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be then at the king's disposal ; and may the Almighty God have mercy on your souls !”

On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 19, was received the information that the warrant for execution, to take place on the following Monday, was made out, which contained a remission of part of the sentence, viz. the taking out and burning their bowels before their faces, and dividing their bodies. It was sent to the keeper of the New-Gaol in the Borough, at six o'clock on Saturday evening, and included the names already given.

The three other prisoners, Newman, Tyndall, and Lander, were respited. As soon as the warrant for execution was received, it was communicated to the unhappy persons by the keeper of the prison, Mr. Ives, with as much tenderness and humanity as the awful nature of the case required.

Colonel Despard observed, that the time was short : yet he had not had, from the first, any strong expectation that the recommendation of the Jury would be effectual. The mediation of Lord Nelson, and a petition to the crown, were tried ; but Colonel Despard was convinced, according to report, that they would be unavailing.

Soon after the warrant was received, all papers, and every thing he possessed, were immediately taken from the colonel.

Mrs. Despard was greatly affected when she first heard his fate was sealed, but afterwards recovered her fortitude. Mr. and Mrs. Despard bore up with great firmness at parting ; and when she got into a coach, as it drove off, she waved her handkerchief out of the window.

The other prisoners bore their fate with equal hardihood, but conducted themselves with less solemnity than

the colonel. Their wives, &c. were allowed to take a farewell of them on the same day, and the scene was truly distressing !

At day-light on Sunday morning, the drop, scaffold, and gallows, on which they were to be executed, were erected on the top of the gaol. All the Bow-street patrol, and many other peace-officers, were on duty all day and night, and the military near London were drawn up close to it.

Mrs. Despard, after having taken leave of her husband, at three in the afternoon, came again at five o'clock ; but it was thought adviseable to spare the colonel the pangs of a second parting, and she was therefore not admitted into the prison. She evinced some indignation at the refusal, and expressed a strong opinion with respect to the cause for which her husband was to suffer. After she had left the colonel at three o'clock, he walked up and down his cell for some time, seemingly more agitated than he had been at the period of taking leave of his wife.

Between six and seven in the evening, he threw himself on the bed, and fell into a short sleep. At eight he awoke, and addressed one of the officers of the prison, who was with him, in these words : " Me—they shall receive no information from me—no, not for all the gifts, the gold, and jewels in the possession of the crown !" He then composed himself, and remained silent.

Seven shells or coffins were brought into prison to receive the bodies, and two large bags filled with saw-dust, and the block on which they were to be beheaded. At four o'clock the next morning, February 21, the drum beat at the Horse-guards, as a signal for the cavalry to assemble.

At six o'clock the Life-Guards arrived, and took their station at the end of the different roads at the Obelisk, in St. George's Fields ; whilst all the officers from Bow-street, Queen-square, Marlborough-street, Hatton-garden, Worship-street, Whitechapel, Shadwell, &c. &c. attended. There were parties of the Life-Guards riding up and down the roads.

At half-past six the prison-bell rang,—the signal for unlocking

unlocking the cells. At seven o'clock, five of them, viz. Broughton, Francis, Graham, Wood, and Wrattton, went into the chapel, with the Rev. Mr. Winkworth. They attended to the prayers with great earnestness, but at the same time without seeming to lose that firmness they had displayed since their trial. Before they received the sacrament, four of them confessed they had done wrong, but not to the extent charged against them by the evidence. The fifth, Graham, said he was innocent of the charges brought against him, but had attended two meetings, the second at the instigation of Francis.

For some time the clergyman refused to administer the sacrament to Francis, because he persisted in declaring he had been guilty of no crime. The clergyman said to him, "You admit you attended meetings." He replied, "Yes." "You knew they were for the purpose of overturning the constitution of the country. I by no means wish you to enter into particulars. I only wish you to acknowledge generally." Francis answered, "I admit I have done wrong in attending those meetings." The clergyman then asked each of them, how they found themselves? Francis, Wood, Broughton, and Wrattton, said, "They were never happier in their lives." Graham remained silent. The sacrament was then administered to them.

Colonel Despard and Macnamara were then brought down from their cells, their irons knocked off, and their arms bound with ropes. The sheriff asked Colonel Despard if he could render him any service. The colonel thanked him, and replied that he could not.

Upon the colonel coming out, he shook hands very cordially with his solicitor, and returned him many thanks for his kind attention. Then observing the sledge and apparatus, he smilingly cried out, "Ha! ha! What nonsensical mummary is this!"

Notice was now given to the Sheriff, that they were ready. The colonel, who stood the first, retired behind, and mentioned to Francis, who was making way for him, to go before him. The hurdle being a body of a small cart, on which two trusses of clean straw were laid, was drawn by two horses.

When the awful procession began, which was at half-past

past eight o'clock precisely, Macnamara was the first that came out.

Colonel Despard was the last that appeared. He was dressed in a blue double-breasted coat, with gilt buttons, cream-coloured waistcoat, with narrow gold-lace binding; a flannel inside vest with scarlet top turned over; grey breeches, long boots, and a brown surtout. He stepped into the hurdle with much fortitude, having an executioner on the right and on the left, and on the same seat, with naked cutlasses. He was thus conducted to the outer lodge, whence he ascended the stair-case leading to the place of execution.

As soon as the prisoners were placed on the hurdle, St. George's bell tolled for some time. They were preceded by the Sheriff, Sir. R. Ford, the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, Mr. Griffith.

The coffins, or shells, which had been previously placed in a room under the scaffold, were then brought up and placed on the platform, on which the drop was erected; the bag of saw-dust to catch the blood when the heads were severed from the bodies, were placed beside them. The block was near the scaffold. There were about a hundred spectators on the platform, among whom were some characters of distinction. The greatest order was observed.

Macnamara was the first on the platform; and when the cord was placed round his neck, he exclaimed, "Lord Jesus, have mercy upon me! O Lord, look down with pity upon me!" The populace were much struck by his appearance. Graham came second; he looked pale and ghastly; but spoke not. Wratten was the third; he ascended the scaffold with much firmness. Broughton, the fourth, who joined in prayer, with much earnestness. Wood was the fifth, and Francis, the sixth. They were all equally composed.

Colonel Despard ascended the scaffold with great firmness, and his countenance underwent not the slightest change while the awful ceremony of fastening the rope round his neck, and placing the cap on his head, was performing: he even assisted the executioner in adjusting

ing the rope; he looked at the multitude assembled with perfect calmness.

The clergyman, who ascended the scaffold after the prisoners were tied up, spoke to him a few words as he passed: the colonel bowed, and thanked him. The ceremony of fastening the prisoners being finished, the Colonel advanced, as near as he could, to the edge of the scaffold, and made the following speech to the multitude:

“ *Fellow-Citizens,*

“ I come here, as you see, after having served my country—faithfully, honourably, and usefully served it, for thirty years and upwards, to suffer death upon a scaffold for a crime of which I protest I am not guilty. I solemnly declare that I am no more guilty of it than any of you, who may be now hearing me. But though his Majesty’s ministers know as well as I do that I am not guilty, yet they avail themselves of a legal pretext to destroy a man, because he has been a friend to truth, to liberty, and justice,—” [There was a considerable huzza from part of the populace the nearest to him, but who, from the height of the scaffold from the ground, could not, for a certainty, distinctly hear what was said. The colonel proceeded]——“ because he has been a friend to the poor and distressed. But, citizens, I hope and trust, notwithstanding my fate, and the fate of those who no doubt will soon follow me, that the principles of freedom, of humanity, and of justice, will finally triumph over falsehood, tyranny, and delusion, and every principle hostile to the interests of the human race. And now, having said this, I have little more to add——” [The Colonel’s voice seemed to falter here—he paused a moment, as if he had meant to say something more, and had forgotten it.] He then concluded in the following manner; “ I have little more to add, except to wish you all health, happiness, and freedom, which I have endeavoured, as far as was in my power, to procure for you, and for mankind in general.”

The Colonel spoke in a firm and audible tone of voice :
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he left off sooner than was expected. There was no public expressions, either of approbation or disapprobation, given when he had concluded his address.

As soon as the colonel had ceased speaking, the clergyman prayed with five of the prisoners.

However, to the very last, Colonel Despard obstinately refused all clerical assistance, nor would he even join in the Lord's Prayer. The executioner pulled the caps over the faces of the unhappy persons, and descended the scaffold. Most of them exclaimed, "Lord Jesus receive our souls!"

At seven minutes before nine o'clock the signal was given, the platform dropped, and they were all launched into eternity!!

After hanging about half an hour, till they were quite dead, they were cut down. Col. Despard was first cut down, his body placed upon saw-dust, and his head upon a block: after his coat and waistcoat had been taken off, his head was severed from his body by persons engaged on purpose to perform that ceremony. The executioner then took the head by the hair, and, carrying it to the edge of the parapet on the right hand, held it up to the view of the populace, and exclaimed, "This is the head of a traitor, Edward Marcus Despard." The same ceremony was performed on the parapet at the left hand.

His remains were now put into the shell that had been prepared for him.

The other prisoners were then cut down, their heads severed from their bodies, and exhibited to the populace, with the same exclamation of "This is the head of another traitor." The bodies were then put into their different shells, and delivered to their friends for interment.

Colonel Despard hung at the right extremity, and Macnamara at the left, as in our engraved representation of this melancholy scene annexed; the others were placed as they are named in the head of our case.

It was the Criminal Law of England taking its most awful course in defence of the mildest constitution that the universe can boast! Some of the most sanguinary forms on this dreadful occasion were dispensed with, to abate the parade of national vengeance.

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The execution was over by ten o'clock, and the populace soon after dispersed quietly.

The body of Colonel Despard was taken away on the first of March, by his friends, with a hearse and three mourning coaches, and interred near the north door of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The City-marshal was present, lest there should be any disturbance on the occasion.

The remains of the other six were deposited in one grave, in the vault under the Rev. Mr. Harper's chapel, in the London-road, St. George's-fields.

STEPHEN STILWELL,

EXECUTED ON THE TOP OF THE NEW GAOL, SOUTHWARK, MARCH 26, 1803,
FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

STEPHEN STILWELL, a publican at the Three Jolly Gardeners, at Mortlake, was tried for the murder of his wife, September 28, 1802, at the Surrey assizes held at Kingston, before Mr. Justice Heath, Thursday, March 24, 1803.

Mr. Nolan, who appeared as counsel for the prosecution, stated, that the prisoner at the bar stood indicted for a crime, which must be the offspring of a most abandoned and cruel disposition. He had for some time lived as a gardener in the family of a gentleman at Mortlake; and the woman, whom he had murdered, also lived as servant in that family; he therefore had every opportunity of being acquainted with her temper and manners previous to his taking her for his wife. They were married from that place, and took a public-house at Mortlake. It would not be regular for him to detail the various instances of cruelty which he had exercised towards his wife, except as connected with the present charge; but he should prove that he frequently declared he would murder her. On the 28th, he quarrelled with his wife, and turned her from the kitchen to the bar, telling her that was her place, and added, "It was no matter, for she had but a few days to live." On the 27th, in the evening, they were seen together, by two lodgers in the house, sitting in the bar, and apparently in amity; but the next morn-

ing he perpetrated the horrid crime. It would also appear that he had attempted another mode of death, for a loaded pistol was found lying by her, the lock of which was down, as though the trigger had been drawn, and it had missed fire. The learned counsel dwelt upon the aggravated circumstances of this crime, in which the foul crime of murder was rendered more heinous, by being against a wife whom he had solemnly sworn at God's altar to cherish and protect.

John Ward deposed as follows:—I am a baker, and live near Stilwell's house. On the 28th of September, 1802, about five o'clock, I got up to work. I was disturbed with a noise, and I went to the gate. I heard a noise in Stilwell's room. I heard his voice. He was saying, "Come, get up, your time is expired." I stood a little time, and heard a scream. Mrs. S. said, "My dear Stilwell, don't murder me." When I heard that, I went to an opposite window where I knew a soldier lay, and called him up. In about ten minutes I saw the prisoner come out of doors at the front door; but, before I saw him, I heard a stamping on the floor of the prisoner's room. Soon after I saw the prisoner run out of the front door. He ran away, and I followed him. In about a minute I came up. Knight, a man I had called on passing by, first laid hold of him. His hands and clothes were sprinkled with blood. We bound him with a cord, and I left him in custody of Benjamin Knight.—On cross-examination the witness said, that when he heard the stamping, he also heard the prisoner exclaiming, "that he had gained his liberty;" and when he came out, he said, "D—n that house, set it on fire," meaning his own house.

Benjamin Knight deposed—I was called by the last witness; I was going by the house, and listened at the window. I heard two or three groans, and heard the prisoner saying, that "he had gained his liberty." I then went into the yard; and, as there was a table under the window, I got upon it, in order to look in at the window; and then I heard a person quit the room, and run down stairs. I immediately went round, and saw Stilwell come out of the front door; his clothes were all bloody.

bloody. I and another man went up stairs, and saw the deceased on the ground. The floor was over my shoes in blood, near the deceased's head. I immediately ran down, and pursued the prisoner. Mr. Ward came to my assistance, and we overtook him. He struck me several times: when we found him, he appeared collected. He asked me to slack the cords, and not to hurt him.

Charles Barwood said, he was a carpenter, and lodged at the prisoner's house. On the 28th of September, in the morning, he heard a noise in the prisoner's room: the witness slept in a room not far from the prisoner's room. He heard the noise of a person apparently singing. He then heard Mrs. Stilwell screaming out, "Oh, Stilwell! dear Stilwell!" then he heard a loud knocking, and the prisoner singing, "You have given me such liberty." He dressed himself, came down, and was going out at the back-door. "I saw," said he, "Stilwell at the foot of the stairs, but I did not observe his dress at that time. As I went round the house, I saw him come out of the front door; his face was bloody, and he said, 'd—n, do you set fire to that house.' I went up stairs with Benjamin Knight. Mrs. S. was lying on the floor, with her head all beat to pieces. A pistol was lying near. I saw the prisoner and his wife about eight or nine o'clock the preceding evening in the bar together, and they seemed very comfortable."

William Bardolph lodged in Stilwell's house, and slept with the last witness; he heard the noise on the morning of the 28th. It came from Stilwell's room: he heard him singing, and presently after the woman screaming out. Stilwell was singing, "I have gained my sweet liberty." We went down, and Stilwell came down swearing after us. We went out (said the witness) at the back door: he went out at the front door, and said, "Set the house on fire." He accompanied the last witness to the room, and described the state of the deceased as the last witness had done.

John Davis, a surgeon at Mortlake, stated that he was sent for in consequence of the murder of the deceased. He examined the body, and found she had been killed by several violent blows which she had received; a great

portion of her brains had been forced out on the right side of her head. He found a pistol, the handle of which was broke, and covered with blood and brains—(here the prisoner fainted away.) It was produced in court.

Elizabeth Carter, servant of the prisoner, had lived with him three weeks on the day of the murder: he appeared always sensible, but frequently said he would murder her.

The prisoner, in his defence, only said, that he did not know what he did; his mind was very much distressed by her aggravating temper.

Mr. Serjeant Best, for the defence, called one witness of the name of Brown. He stated, that the week before the murder, he was with Stilwell in his garden. He did not then seem to know what he was about: he cut down his French beans, and pruned away all his rose trees. Brown asked him to go and have a pint of porter with him; but Stilwell said, he would not drink, and he never wished to go into his own house again, for they all made him miserable.

Mr. Justice Heath said, the only question for the jury was, whether they could possibly infer insanity; for that was the defence insinuated by the last witness. It appeared to him, that the prisoner had worked himself up to a frenzy of passion, so as not to know what he was about; but that was not insanity. Men must restrain the turbulence of their passions, or answer the consequences. It seemed that the galling yoke which had wrought him to the commission of this desperate deed, was the unhappiness of domestic circumstances; but that was not insanity. Insanity was a bodily disease, and did not originate in ill temper and passion. If, therefore, they found that the fact arose from a criminal indulgence of the passions, they must find him guilty.

The jury, without any hesitation, returned a verdict of guilty.

The greater part of the trial the prisoner was perfectly calm; but just as the verdict was given, he became dreadfully agitated, and could scarcely be supported.

The learned judge, observing that the prisoner was not
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JOHN HATFIELD.

in a condition to profit by admonition from his agitation, immediately passed sentence.

At nine o'clock he came on the scaffold, preceded by the under-sheriff and the gaoler. As soon as he came up, and saw the fatal beam, he fell on his knees in a state of the utmost agony. The executioner immediately proceeded to do his duty, in affixing the halter round his neck. On being addressed by Mr. Winkworth, the chaplain, he seemed to resume his fortitude, and prayed for near a quarter of an hour. At the departure of the clergyman, the cap was pulled over his eyes; when he fervently exclaimed, "Lord be merciful to me, a sinner!" which he continued repeating till the fall of the drop put an end to his existence. He had previously taken the sacrament in the chapel, and conducted himself in the most penitent manner possible, acknowledging the crime for which he suffered, and hoping that his death would be a warning to others not to give way to their passions. After hanging the usual time, his body was cut down, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

JOHN HATFIELD,

(*The Keswick Impostor,*)

EXECUTED AT CARLISLE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1803, FOR FORGERY,

With Particulars of the once celebrated "Beauty of Buttermere," a Victim to his Villany.

THE subject of our present consideration (who had latterly acquired the appellation of the Keswick Impostor,) and whose extraordinary case had excited considerable and universal odium, was born in the year 1759, at Mortram, in Longdale, Cheshire, of low descent, but possessing much natural ability. His face was handsome, the shape of which, in his youth, was oval, his person genteel, his eyes blue, and his complexion fair.

After some domestic depredations (for, in his early days, he betrayed an iniquitous disposition,) he quitted his family, and was employed in the capacity of a rider to

to a linen-draper in the north of England. In the course of this service, he became acquainted with a young woman, who was nursed, and resided at a farmer's house in the neighbourhood of his employer. She had been, in her earlier life, taught to consider the people with whom she lived as her parents. Remote from the gaieties and follies of what is so idly denominated polished life, she was unacquainted with the allurements of fashion, and considered her domestic duties as the only object of her consideration. When this deserving girl had arrived at a certain age, the honest farmer explained to her the secret of her birth: he told her, that notwithstanding she had always considered him as her parent, he was in fact only her poor guardian, and that she was the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, who intended to give her one thousand pounds, provided she married with his approbation.

This discovery soon reached the ears of Hatfield: he immediately paid his respects at the farmer's, and having represented himself as a young man of considerable expectations in the wholesale linen business, his visits were not discountenanced. The farmer, however, thought it incumbent on him to acquaint his lordship with a proposal made to him by Hatfield, that he would marry the young woman, if her relations were satisfied with their union, but on no other terms. This had so much the appearance of an honourable and prudent intention, that his lordship, on being made acquainted with the circumstances, desired to see the lover. He accordingly paid his respects to the noble and unsuspecting parent, who conceiving the young man to be what he represented himself, gave his consent at the first interview; and, the day after the marriage took place, presented the bridegroom with a draft on his banker for 1500*l*. This transaction took place about the year 1771 or 1772.

Shortly after the receipt of his lordship's bounty, Hatfield set off for London; hired a small phæton; was perpetually at the coffee-houses in Covent-garden; describing himself to whatever company he chanced to meet, as a near relation of the Rutland family; vaunted of his parks and hounds; but as great liars have seldom good memories,

memories, he so varied in his descriptive figures, that he acquired the appellation of *lying Hatfield*.

The marriage portion now exhausted, he retreated from London, and was scarcely heard of until about the year 1782, when he again visited the metropolis, having left his wife with three daughters she had borne to him, to depend on the precarious charity of her relations. Happily she did not long survive; and the author of her calamities, during his stay in London, soon experienced calamity himself, having been arrested, and committed to the King's Bench prison for a debt, amounting to the sum of 160*l*. Several unfortunate gentlemen, then confined in the same place, had been of his parties when he flourished in Covent-garden, and perceiving him in great poverty, frequently invited him to dinner; yet such was the unaccountable disposition of this man, that notwithstanding he knew there were people present who were thoroughly acquainted with his character, still he would continue to describe his Yorkshire Park, his estate in Rutlandshire, settled upon his wife, and generally wind up the whole with observing how vexatious it was to be confined at the suit of a paltry tradesman for so insignificant a sum, at the very moment when he had thirty men employed in cutting a piece of water near the family mansion in Yorkshire.

At the time Hatfield became a prisoner in the King's Bench, the late unfortunate Valentine Morris, formerly governor of the Island of St. Vincent, was confined in the same place. The gentleman was frequently visited by a clergyman of the most benevolent and humane disposition. Hatfield soon directed his attention to this good man, and one day earnestly invited him to attend him to his chamber. After some preliminary apologies, he implored the worthy pastor never to disclose what he was going to communicate. The divine assured him, the whole should remain in his bosom. "Then," said Hatfield, "you see before you a man nearly allied to the house of Rutland, and possessed of estates (here followed the old story of the Yorkshire Park, the Rutlandshire property, &c. &c.); yet notwithstanding all this wealth, (continued he,) I am detained in this wretched place, for the insignificant sum
of

of one hundred and sixty pounds. But the truth is, Sir, I would not have my situation known to any man in the world but my worthy relative, his Grace of Rutland. Indeed, I would rather remain a captive for ever. But, Sir, if you would have the goodness to pay your respects to this worthy nobleman, and frankly describe how matters are, he will at once send me the money by you, and this mighty business will not only be instantly settled, but I shall have the satisfaction of introducing you to a connection which may be attended with happy consequences."

The honest clergyman readily undertook the commission; paid his respects to the Duke, and pathetically described the unfortunate situation of his amiable relative. His Grace of Rutland, not recollecting at the moment such a name as Hatfield, expressed his astonishment at the application. This reduced the worthy divine to a very awkward situation, and he faltered in his speech when he began making an apology; which the Duke perceiving, he very kindly observed, that he believed the whole was some idle tale of an impostor, for that he never knew any person of the name mentioned, although he had some faint recollection of hearing Lord Robert, his relation, say that he had married a natural daughter of his to a tradesman in the north of England, and whose name he believed was Hatfield.

The reverend missionary was so confounded that he immediately retired, and proceeded to the prison, where he gave the impostor, in the presence of Mr. Morris, a most severe lecture. But the appearance of this venerable man as his friend had the effect which Hatfield expected; for the Duke sent to inquire if he was the man that married the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, and, being satisfied as to the fact, dispatched a messenger with 200*l.* and had him released.

In the year 1784 or 1785, His Grace of Rutland was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and shortly after his arrival in Dublin, Hatfield made his appearance in that city. He immediately, on his landing, engaged a suite of apartments at a hotel in College-green, and represented himself as nearly allied to the Viceroy, but that
he

he could not appear at the castle until his horses, servants, and carriages, were arrived, which he ordered, before his leaving England, to be shipped at Liverpool. The easy and familiar manner in which he addressed the master of the hotel perfectly satisfied him that he had a man of consequence in his house, and matters were arranged accordingly. This being adjusted, Hatfield soon found his way to Lucas's Coffee-house, a place which people of a certain rank generally frequent; and, it being a new scene, the Yorkshire Park, the Rutlandshire estate, and the connections with the Rutland family, stood their ground very well for about a month.

At the expiration of this time, the bill at the hotel amounted to sixty pounds and upwards. The landlord became importunate, and after expressing his astonishment at the non-arrival of Mr. Hatfield's domestics, &c. requested he might be permitted to send in his bill. This did not in the least confuse Hatfield: he immediately told the master of the hotel, that very fortunately his agent, who received the rents of his estates in the north of England, was then in Ireland, and held a public employment: he lamented that his agent was not then in Dublin: but he had the pleasure to know his stay in the country would not exceed three days. This satisfied the landlord, and, at the expiration of the three days, he called upon the gentleman, whose name Hatfield had given him, and presented the account. Here followed another scene of confusion and surprise. The supposed agent of the Yorkshire estate very frankly told the man who delivered the bill, that he had no other knowledge of the person who sent him than what common report furnished him with, that his general character in London was that of a romantic simpleton, whose plausibilities had imposed on several people, and plunged himself into repeated difficulties.

The landlord retired highly thankful for the information, and immediately arrested his guest, who was lodged in the prison of the Marshalsea. Hatfield had scarcely seated himself in his new lodgings, when he visited the gaoler's wife in her apartment, and, in a whisper, requested of her not to tell any person that she had in her

custody a near relation of the then Viceroy. The woman, astonished at the discovery, immediately shewed him into the best apartment in the prison, had a table provided, and she, her husband, and Hatfield, constantly dined together for nearly three weeks, in the utmost harmony and good humour.

During this time he had petitioned the duke for another supply, who, apprehensive that the fellow might continue his impositions in Dublin, released him, on condition of his immediately quitting Ireland; and his Grace sent a servant, who conducted him on board the packet that sailed the next tide for Holyhead.

In 1792 he came to Scarborough, introduced himself to the acquaintance of several persons of distinction in that neighbourhood, and insinuated that he was, by the interest of the Duke of Rutland, soon to be one of the representatives in parliament for the town of Scarborough. After several weeks' stay at the principal inn at Scarborough, his imposture was detected by his inability to pay the bill. Soon after his arrival in London he was arrested for this debt, and thrown into prison. He had been eight years and a half in confinement, when a Miss Nation, of Devonshire, to whom he had become known, paid his debts, took him from prison, and gave him her hand in marriage.

Soon after he was liberated, he had the good fortune to prevail with some highly respectable merchants in Devonshire to take him into partnership with them, and with a clergyman to accept his drafts to a large amount. He made, upon this foundation, a splendid appearance in London, and, before the general election, even proceeded to canvass the rotten borough of Queenborough. Suspicions in the mean time arose, in regard to his character, and the state of his fortune. He retired from the indignation of his creditors, and was declared a bankrupt in order to bring his villany to light. Thus having left behind his second wife and two infant children, at Tiverton, he visited other places; and at length, in July 1802, arrived at the Queen's Head, in Keswick, in a carriage, but without any servant, where he assumed the name of the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope,
brother

brother of the Earl of Hopetoun, and member for Linlithgow. Unfortunately some evil genius directed his steps to the once happy cottage of poor Mary, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, an old couple, who kept a small public-house at the side of the beautiful lake of Buttermere, Cumberland, and by his industry gained a little property. She was the only daughter, and probably her name had never been known to the public, but for the account given of her by the author of "A fortnight's ramble to the lakes in Westmorland, Lancashire, and Cumberland." He now became acquainted with an Irish gentleman, and member of the then Irish parliament, who had been resident with his family some months at Keswick. With this gentleman, and under his immediate protection, there was likewise a young lady of family and fortune, and of great personal attraction. One of the means which Hatfield used to introduce himself to this respectable family was the following:—Understanding that the gentleman had been a military man, he took an army list from his pocket, and pointed to his assumed name, the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope, lieutenant-colonel of the 14th regiment of foot. This new acquaintance daily gained strength; and he shortly paid his addresses to the daughter of the above gentleman, and obtained her consent. The wedding clothes were bought; but, previously to the wedding-day being fixed, she insisted that the pretended Colonel Hope should introduce the subject formally to her friends. He now pretended to write letters, and, while waiting for the answers, proposed to employ that time in a trip to Lord Hopetoun's seat, &c.

From this time he played a double game; his visits to Keswick became frequent, and his suit to the young lady assiduous and fervent. Still, however, both at Keswick and Buttermere, he was somewhat shy of appearing in public. He was sure to be engaged in a fishing expedition on the day on which any company was expected at the public-house at Buttermere; and he never attended the church at Keswick but once.

Finding his schemes baffled to obtain this young lady and her fortune, he now applied himself wholly to gain

possession of Mary Robinson. He made the most minute inquiries among the neighbours into every circumstance relating to her and her family, and at length the pretended Colonel Hope, in company with the clergyman, procured a licence on the 1st of October, and they were publicly married in the church of Lorton, on Saturday, the 2d of October.

On the day previous to his marriage, he wrote to Mr. ———, informing him, that he was under the necessity of being absent for ten days on a journey into Scotland, and sent him a draft for thirty pounds drawn on Mr. Crumpton, of Liverpool, desired him to cash it, and pay some small debts in Keswick with it, and send him over the balance, as he feared he might be short of cash on the road. This Mr. ——— immediately did, and sent him ten guineas in addition to the balance. On the Saturday, Wood, the landlord of the Queen's Head, returned from Lorton with the public intelligence, that Colonel Hope had married the Beauty of Buttermere. As it was clear, whoever he was, that he had acted unworthily and dishonorably, Mr. M——'s suspicions were of course awakened. He instantly remitted the draft to Mr. Crumpton, who immediately accepted it. Mr. M——, the friend of the young lady whom he first paid his addresses to, wrote to the Earl of Hopetoun. Before the answer arrived, the pretended honourable returned with his wife to Buttermere. He went only as far as Longtown, when he received two letters, seemed much troubled that some friends whom he expected had not arrived there, stayed three days, and then told his wife that he would again go back to Buttermere. From this time she was seized with fears and suspicions. They returned, however, and their return was made known at Keswick. The late Mr. Harding the barrister, and a Welch Judge, and a very singular man, passing through Keswick, heard of this impostor, and sent his servant over to Buttermere with a note to the supposed Colonel Hope, who observed, "that it was a mistake, and that the note was for a brother of his." However, he sent for four horses, and came over to Keswick; drew another draft on Mr. Crumpton, for twenty pounds, which the landlord at the
Queen's

Queen's Head had the courage to cash. Of this sum he immediately sent the ten guineas to Mr. ———, who came and introduced him to the judge, as his old friend Colonel Hope. But he made a blank denial that he had ever assumed the name. He had said his name was Hope, but not that he was the honourable member for Linlithgow, &c. &c.; and one who had been his frequent companion, his intimate at Buttermere, gave evidence to the same purpose.

In spite, however, of his impudent assertions, and those of his associate, the evidence against him was decisive. A warrant was given by Sir Frederick Vane on the clear proof of his having forged and received several thanks as the member for Linlithgow, and he was committed to the care of a constable. Having, however, found means to escape, he took refuge for a few days on board a sloop off Ravingass, and then went in the coach to Ulverstone, and was afterwards seen at the hotel in Chester. In the mean time the following advertisement, setting forth his person and manners, was in the public prints:—

“NOTORIOUS IMPOSTOR, SWINDLER, AND FELON!

“John Hatfield, who lately married a young woman, commonly called the Beauty of Buttermere, under an assumed name: height about five feet ten inches: aged about forty-four; full face, bright eyes, thick eyebrows, strong but light beard, good complexion, with some colour; thick, but not very prominent nose, smiling countenance, fine teeth, a scar on one of his cheeks near the chin, very long thick light hair, and a great deal of it grey done up in a club; stiff square shouldered, full breast and chest, rather corpulent, and strong limbed, but very active; and has rather a spring in his gait, with apparently a little hitch in bringing up one leg; the two middle fingers of his left hand are stiff from an old wound: he has something of the Irish brogue in his speech: fluent and elegant in his language, great command of words, frequently puts his hand to his heart; very fond of compliments,

pliments, and generally addressing himself to persons most distinguished by rank or situation; attentive in the extreme to females, and likely to insinuate himself where there are young ladies. He was in America during the war; is fond of talking of his wounds and exploits there, and of military subjects, as well as of Hatfield Hall, and his estates in Derbyshire and Cheshire; and of the antiquity of his family, whom he pretends to trace to the Plantagenets. He makes a boast of having often been engaged in duels: he has been a great traveller also, by his own account, and talks of Egypt, Turkey, and Italy; and, in short, has a general knowledge of subjects, which, together with his engaging manners, is well calculated to impose on the credulous. He had art enough to connect himself with some very respectable merchants in Devonshire, as a partner in business, but having swindled them out of large sums, he was made a separate bankrupt in June, 1802. He cloaks his deceptions under the mask of religion, appears fond of religious conversation, and makes a point of attending Divine service and popular preachers."

Though he was personally known in Cheshire to many of the inhabitants, yet this specious hypocrite had so artfully disguised himself, that he quitted the town without any suspicion, before the Bow-street officers reached that place in quest of him. He was then traced to Brielth in Brecknockshire, and was at length apprehended about sixteen miles from Swansea, and committed to Brecon gaol. He had a cravat on, with his initial, J. H. which he attempted to account for by calling himself John Henry.

Before the magistrates he declared himself to be Tudor Henry; and, in order to prepossess the honest Cambrians in his favour, boasted that he was descended from an ancient family in Wales, for the inhabitants of which country he had ever entertained a sincere regard. He was, however, conveyed up to town by one of the Bow-street officers, where he was examined on his arrival before the magistrates. The solicitor for his bankruptcy attended to identify his person, and stated, that the commission of bankruptcy was issued against Hatfield in June,

June, 1802; that he attended the last meeting of the commissioners, but the prisoner did not appear, although due notice of the bankruptcy had been given in the Gazette, and he himself had given a personal notice to the prisoner's wife, at Wakefield, near Tiverton, Devon. Mr. Parkyn, the solicitor to the post-office, produced a warrant from Sir Fletcher Vane, Bart. a magistrate for the county of Cumberland, against the prisoner, by the name of the Hon. Alex. Augustus Hope, charging him with felony, by pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom, and franking several letters by the name of A. Hope, to several persons, which were put into the post-office at Keswick, in Cumberland, in order to evade the duties of postage. Another charge for forgery, and the charge of bigamy, were explained to him, but not entered into, as he was committed for trial for these charges at the next assizes at Carlisle. He conducted himself with the greatest propriety during his journey to town, and on his examination; but said nothing more than answering a few questions put to him by Sir Richard Ford and the solicitors. He was then dressed in a black coat and waistcoat, fustian breeches, and boots, and wore his hair tied behind without powder. His appearance was respectable, though quite in dishabille. The Duke of Cumberland, and several other gentlemen, were present at his examination; in the course of which the following letter was produced:

“ Keswick, October the 1st, 1802.

John Crumpt, Esq. Liverpool.

Free, A. Hope.

“ Buttermere, Oct. 1, 1802.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I have this day received Mr. Kirkman's kind letter from Manchester, promising me the happiness of seeing you both in about ten days, which will indeed give me great pleasure; and you can, too, be of very valuable service to me at this place, particulars of which, when we meet, though I shall probably write to you again in a few days—the chief purpose for which I write
this

this is to desire you will be so good as to accept a bill for me, dated Buttermere, the 1st of October, at ten days, and I will either give you cash for it here, or remit it to you in time, which ever way you please to say. It is drawn in favour of Nathaniel Montgomery More, Esq. Be pleased to present my best respects to your lady; and say I hope, ere the winter elapses, to pay her my personal respects; for, if you will manage so as to pass a little time with me in Scotland, I will promise to make Liverpool in my way to London.

“ With the truest esteem,

“ I am, dear sir,

“ Your’s ever,

“ A. HOPE.”

This letter, it was proved, passed free of postage. Another letter was also produced from his wife at Tiverton, and a certificate of his marriage with Mary of Buttermere. His trial came on, August 15, 1803, at the assizes for Cumberland, before the Honourable Alexander Thompson, Knt. He stood charged upon the three following indictments:

1. With having assumed the name and title of the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and with having, about the month of October last, under such false and fictitious name and character, drawn a draft, or bill of exchange, in the name of Alexander Hope, upon John Crumpt, Esq. for the sum of 20*l.* payable to George Wood, of Keswick, Cumberland, inn-keeper, or order, at the end of fourteen days from the date of the said draft or bill of exchange.

2. With making, uttering, and publishing as true, a certain false, forged, and counterfeit bill of exchange, with the name of Alexander Augustus Hope thereunto falsely set and subscribed, drawn upon John Crumpt, Esq. dated the 1st of October, 1802, and payable to Nathaniel

thaniel Montgomery Moore, or order, ten days, after date, for 30*l.* sterling.

3. With having assumed the name of Alexander Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the brother of the Right Hon. Lord Hopetoun, and a colonel in the army; and under such false and fictitious name and character, at various times in the month of October, 1802, having forged and counterfeited the hand-writing of the said Alexander Hope, in the superscription of certain letters or packets, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of postage.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The three several indictments being read, Mr. Scarlett opened the case in an address to the jury: and gave an ample detail of the prisoner's guilt.

In support of what he had advanced he called Mr. Quick, who was clerk in the house at Tiverton, where Hatfield was partner, who swore to his hand-writing.

The Rev. Mr. Nicholson swore that when the prisoner was asked his name, he said, it was a comfortable one, Hope. The other witnesses were Mr. Joseph Skelton, of Rockliffe, Cumberland; Mr. George Wood, of Keswick, innkeeper; John Gregory Crump, and Colonel Parke, who was well acquainted with the real Colonel Hope.

The evidence for the prosecution having closed, the prisoner then addressed himself to the jury. He said he felt some degree of satisfaction in being able to have his sufferings terminated, as they must of course be by their verdict. For the space of nine months he had been dragged from prison to prison, and torn from place to place, subject to all the misrepresentations of calumny. "Whatever will be my fate," said he, "I am content; it is the award of justice, impartially and virtuously administered. But I will solemnly declare, that in all my transactions, I never intended to defraud or injure the persons whose names have appeared in the prosecution. This I will maintain to the last of my life."

The prisoner called in his defence, — Newton, attorney, at Chester; who said he was employed by the

prisoner in the summer assizes in recovering an estate in the county of Kent. He understood the prisoner's father to be a respectable man; some of the family very opulent. Believes the prisoner has a mother-in-law; says the prisoner is married; never knew him to bear any other name than John Hatfield; he married a lady of the name of Nation. His assignees have sold the estate in question. Witness knows nothing of his circumstances previous to the recovery of the estate. It was rented at 100*l.* per annum. Does not know why the prisoner quitted Devonshire. Did not then travel in his own carriage, but formerly kept a carriage.

After the evidence was gone through, Sir. A. Thompson, with a great deal of perspicuity and force, summed up the whole of the evidence, and commented upon such parts as peculiarly affected the fate of the prisoner. "Nothing," his Lordship said, "could be more clearly proved than that the prisoner did make the bill or bills in question under the assumed name of Alexander Augustus Hope, with an intention to defraud. That the prisoner used the additional name of Augustus was of no consequence in this question. The evidence proved clearly that the prisoner meant to represent himself to be another character; and under that assumed character, he drew the bills in question. If any thing should appear in mitigation of the offences with which the prisoner was charged, they must give them a full consideration; and though his character had been long shaded with obloquy, yet they must not let this in the least influence the verdict they were sworn to give."

The jury consulted about ten minutes, and then returned a verdict—Guilty of Forgery.

The trial commenced about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and ended about seven in the evening, during the whole of which time the court was excessively crowded. The prisoner's behaviour in court was proper and dignified, and he supported his situation from first to last with unshaken fortitude. He employed himself during the greatest part of his trial in writing notes on the evidence given, and in conversing with his counsel, Messrs. Topping and Holroyd.

When

When the verdict of the jury was given, he discovered no relaxation of his accustomed demeanour. After the court adjourned, he retired from the bar, and was ordered to attend the next morning to receive the sentence of the law. The crowd was immense, and he was allowed a post-chaise from the Town-hall to the gaol.

At eight o'clock the next morning, the court met again, when the prisoner appeared at the bar to receive his sentence. Numbers of people gathered together to witness this painful duty of the law passed upon one whose appearance, manners, and actions, had excited a most uncommon degree of interest. After proceeding in the usual form, the judge addressed the prisoner in the following impressive terms :

“John Hatfield, after the long and serious investigation, of the charges which have been preferred against you, you have been found guilty by a jury of your country—

“You have been distinguished for crimes of such magnitude as have seldom, if ever, received any mitigation of capital punishment, and in your case it is impossible it can be limited. Assuming the person, name, and character, of a worthy and respectable officer, of a noble family in this country, you have perpetrated and committed the most enormous crimes. The long imprisonment you have undergone has afforded time for your serious reflection, and an opportunity of your being deeply impressed with a sense of the enormity of your crimes, and the justness of that sentence which must be inflicted upon you ; and I wish you to be seriously impressed with the awfulness of your situation. I conjure you to reflect with anxious care and deep concern on your approaching end, concerning which much remains to be done. Lay aside now your delusions and imposition, and employ properly the short space you have to live. I beseech you to employ the remaining part of your time in preparing for eternity, so that you may find mercy at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Hear now the sentence of the law :—That you be carried from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, and there to be hanged by the neck till you are dead, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul !”

A notion very generally prevailed that he would not be brought to justice, and the arrival of the mail was daily expected with the greatest impatience. No pardon arriving, September 3, 1803, (Saturday) was at last fixed upon for the execution.

The gallows was erected the preceding night between twelve and three, in an island formed by the river Eden, on the north side of the town, between the two bridges. From the hour when the jury found him guilty, he behaved with the utmost serenity and cheerfulness. He received the visits of all who wished to see him, and talked upon the topics of the day with the greatest interest or indifference. He could scarcely ever be brought to speak of his own case. He neither blamed the verdict, nor made any confession of his guilt. He said that he had no intention to defraud those whose names he forged; but was never heard to say that he was to die unjustly. None of his relations ever visited him during his confinement.

The alarming nature of the crime of forgery, in a commercial country, had taught him from the beginning to entertain no hope of mercy. By ten in the morning of September 3, his irons were struck off: he appeared as usual, and no one observed any alteration or increased agitation whatever.

Soon after ten o'clock he sent for the Carlisle Journal, and perused it for some time: a little after he had laid aside the paper, two clergymen (Mr. Pattison, of Carlisle, and Mr. Mark, of Burgh-on-Sands,) attended and prayed with him for about two hours, and drank coffee with him. After they left him, about twelve, he wrote some letters, and in one enclosed his penknife: it was addressed to London. About this time he also shaved himself: though intrusted with a razor, he never seems to have meditated an attempt, notwithstanding it was generally reported on Friday night that he had poisoned himself; but it was founded merely on what was reckoned probable. Soon after twelve, a gentleman called upon him. In a strain of affected politeness, he apologized for being found in dishabille. To all who spoke with him, he pretended that what he had to suffer was a matter of little consequence. He preferred talking on indifferent subjects.—

At

At three he dined with the gaoler, and ate heartily. Having taken a glass or two of wine, he ordered coffee. He took a dish a few minutes before he set out for the place of execution. The last thing he did was to read a chapter from the 2d of Corinthians. He had previously marked out this passage for his lesson before he was to mount the scaffold.

The sheriffs, the bailiffs, and the Carlisle volunteer cavalry, attended at the gaol-door about half-past three, together with a post-chaise and a hearse. He was then ordered into the turnkey's lodge, for the purpose of being pinioned, where he inquired of the gaoler, who were going in the chaise with him? He was told the executioner and the gaoler. He immediately said, "Pray, where is the executioner? I should wish much to see him." The executioner was sent for. Hatfield asked him how he was, and made him a present of some silver in a paper. During the time of his being pinioned, he stood with resolution, and requested he might not be pinioned tight, as he wished to use his handkerchief when on the platform; which was complied with. A prodigious crowd had assembled: this was the market-day, and people had come from the distance of many miles out of mere curiosity. Hatfield, when he left the prison, wished all his fellow-prisoners might be happy: he then took farewell of the clergyman, who attended him to the door of the chaise, and mounted the steps with much steadiness and composure. The gaoler and the executioner went in along with him. The latter had been brought from Dumfries upon a retaining fee of ten guineas.

It was exactly four o'clock when the procession moved from the gaol. Passing through the Scotch gate, in about twelve minutes it arrived at the Sands. Half the yeomanry went before the carriage, and the other half behind. Upon arriving on the ground, they formed a ring round the scaffold. It is said that he wished to have had the blinds drawn up, but that such an indulgence was held inconsistent with the interest of public justice.—When he came in sight of the tree, he said to the gaoler, he imagined that was the tree (pointing at it) that he was to die on. On being told yes, he exclaimed, "Oh! a happy sight, I see it with pleasure!"

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As soon as the carriage-door had been opened by the under-sheriff, the culprit alighted with his two companions. A small dung-cart, boarded over, had been placed under the gibbet. A ladder was placed to this stage, which he instantly ascended. He was dressed in a black jacket, black silk waistcoat, fustian pantaloons, white cotton stockings, and ordinary shoes. He wore no powder in his hair. He was perfectly cool and collected. At the same time his conduct displayed nothing of levity, of insensibility, or of hardihood. He was more anxious to give proof of resignation than of heroism.—His countenance was extremely pale, but his hand never trembled.

He immediately untied his neck handkerchief, and placed a bandage over his eyes. Then he desired the hangman, who was extremely awkward, to be as expert as possible about it, and that he would wave a handkerchief when he was ready. The hangman not having fixed the rope in its proper place, he put up his hand, and turned it himself. He also tied his cap, took his handkerchief from his own neck, and tied it about his head also. Then he requested the gaoler would step upon the platform and pinion his arms a little harder, saying, that when he had lost his senses he might attempt to place them to his neck. The rope was completely fixed about five minutes before four o'clock ; it was slack, and he merely said, " May the Almighty bless you all." Nor did he falter in the least ; when he tied the cap, shifted the rope, and took his handkerchief from his neck.

He several times put on a languid and piteous smile. He at last seemed rather exhausted and faint. Having been near three weeks under sentence of death, he must have suffered much, notwithstanding his external bearing ; and a reflection of the misery he had occasioned must have given him many an agonizing throb.

Having taken leave of the gaoler and the sheriff, he prepared himself for his fate. He was at this time heard to exclaim, " My spirit is strong though my body is weak."

Great apprehensions were entertained that it would be necessary to tie him up a second time. The noose slipped twice, and he fell down about eighteen inches.

His

His feet at last were almost touching the ground. But his excessive weight, which occasioned this accident, speedily relieved him from pain. He expired in a moment, and without any struggle. The ceremony of his hands being tied behind his back was satisfied by a piece of white tape passed loosely from the one to the other. But he never made the smallest effort to relieve himself. He had calculated so well, that his money exactly carried him to the scaffold. As they were setting out, the hangman was going to search him. He threw him half-a-crown, saying, "This is all that my pockets contain."—He had been in considerable distress before he received a supply from his father. He afterwards lived in great style, frequently making presents to his fellow felons.—He was considered in the gaol as a kind of emperor: he was allowed to do whatever he pleased, and no one took offence at the air of superiority which he assumed.

He was cut down after he had hung about an hour. On the preceding Wednesday, he had applied to one of the clergymen who attended him (Mr. Pattison) to recommend him a tradesman to make his coffin. Mr. Joseph Bushby, of Carlisle, took measure of him. He did not appear at all agitated while Mr. Bushby was so employed; but told him that he wished the coffin to be a strong oak one, plain and neat. "I request, Sir," he added, "that after I am taken down, I may be put into the coffin immediately, with the apparel I may have on, and afterwards closely screwed down, put into the hearse which will be in waiting, carried to the church-yard of Burgh-on-Sands, and there be interred in the evening."

The coffin, which was made of oak, was, however, adorned with plates, and extremely handsome every way. A hearse, which was in waiting according to his orders, followed with it to the ground, and afterwards bore him away. It seems he had a great terror of his body being taken up, and though he was told that it would be safer for him to be buried in the city, yet he preferred Burgh (a place extremely sequestered, about ten miles west from Carlisle), but the conscientious parishioners of Burgh objected to his being laid there, and the body was consequently conveyed in the hearse to St. Mary's Church-yard

yard (the usual place for those who come to an untimely end), close by the northern gate. Several men then set to work to dig a grave. The spot was fixed upon in a distant corner of the church-yard, far from the other tombs. No priest attended, and the coffin was lowered without any religious service. Notwithstanding his various and complicated enormities, his untimely end excited considerable commiseration in this place. His manners were extremely polished and insinuating, and he was possessed of qualities which might have rendered him an ornament to society.

The unfortunate Mary of Buttermere went from home to avoid the impertinent visits of unfeeling curiosity. By all accounts she was much affected ; and, indeed, without supposing that any part of her former attachment remained, it is impossible that she could view with indifference the tragical fate of one with whom she had been on such a footing. When her father and mother heard that Hatfield had certainly been hanged, they both exclaimed, "God be thanked !"

JOHN THOMPSON, alias KELLY,

A MEAN AND COWARDLY ROBBER, EXECUTED AT NEWGATE, OCTOBER 6, 1803, FOR ROBBING AND ILL-TREATING A POOR DEFENCELESS OLD WOMAN.

THIS offender, who was a person of a most ferocious appearance, aged forty-two, was indicted at the Old Bailey, July 6, before Mr. Justice Lawrence, for assaulting Mary Hurst, widow, whose very appearance was enough to excite commiseration ; and robbing her of a wicker basket, containing a set of knitting-needles, books, ballads, cotton-laces, pin-cushions, &c. by the sale of which she gained her livelihood.

The object of this man's brutal behaviour, was a poor miserable woman, upwards of eighty years of age, palsied in every part of her frame, and unable to move a step without assistance. Her story, part of which delicacy obliges us to conceal, was as follows :—

"On the 27th of May, at eleven o'clock at night, I was
going

going to Hertford. I came from Turnham-green, was short of money, and wanted to follow the waggon for company. There was a man up against the pales, by a bush, of a dark complexion, dressed in a jacket, who knocked me down with his fist, and beat me as long as he could." (She then alleged that he took great liberties.) "I cried murder! he threatened to pull my tongue out if I cried out any more. He struck me every where—My head was as big as a peck, and he stamped upon my stomach. He then ran away with my basket, and did not leave me a halfpenny worth to sell. No creature came near me. I crawled upon my hands and knees till I met a watchman, who guided me to an ale-house."

Richard Gibbs, the watchman, corroborated the poor old woman's story. He declared she was in a very piteous condition: the blood ran out of her mouth; her eyes very much swelled; her hands bloody all over: in short, she was quite frightful for any one to see.

Matthew Wells, the ostler, at the Chaise and Horses, at Hammersmith, swore, that between twelve and one o'clock the prisoner was at the Chaise and Horses; no one was with him: he staid about half an hour, and he had the basket at that time, which stood upon the table before him. After he was gone, about an hour and a half, the watchman brought in the old woman; and in consequence of what they told him, the witness, about a quarter before three o'clock in the morning, rode with Mr. Rutter, a butcher, in Oxendon-street, in pursuit of the man.

The witness then went back into Piccadilly, and met the prisoner (with a basket) three doors on the other side of Air-street. It rained very hard, and the witness having accosted him, asked if he was not wet. He said only a little wet at his back. Witness then remarked, he had not come far; but the prisoner confessed he had come from Brentford. The witness then invited him to take some purl with him; and when they had got about one hundred and twenty yards, Wells seized him by the collar, and told him he was his prisoner. The watchman was in his box, and they took him to Vine-street watch-

house, where the witness took the basket from him, and delivered it to the constable of the night.

Charles Luppino, constable, said, that he asked the prisoner when brought to the watch-house his name, and he told him it was John Kelly, but the next morning, at the office, he said his name was John Thompson, and that John Kelly was the man who had beat the woman.— This witness produced the basket, which was sworn to by the prosecutrix. He also said, that the prisoner was dressed in a blue jacket when brought to the watch-house; and that the next morning, when the old woman saw him, she exclaimed, “that is the villain!”

The prisoner in his defence said, that a sailor in Piccadilly gave him the basket to hold, while he did a little job for himself. He denied ever being at the Chaise and Horses.

The prisoner’s guilt having been fully established, the jury, without any hesitation, returned a verdict of guilty. His condemnation appeared to give universal satisfaction.

This hardened wretch was ordered for execution on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 1803; but having been respited for fourteen days, he did not suffer till Thursday, October the 6th. He was brought out of Newgate on the platform in the Old Bailey, a few minutes after eight o’clock, and, after spending a short time in fervent prayer, was launched into eternity.

ANN HURLE,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, FEBRUARY 8, 1804, FOR FORGERY.

It has not often fallen to our lot, to produce cases of artful forgeries having been committed by females.— The present was highly aggravated by this woman’s selecting an old infirm man as the object of her depredation.

Ann Hurle, only twenty-two years of age, was on Saturday, January 14, 1804, capitally indicted at the Old Bailey,

Bailey, for having forged and counterfeited, uttered and published, as true, in the city of London, a letter of attorney, with the name of Benjamin Allin thereunto subscribed, purporting to have been signed, sealed, and delivered, by a gentleman of that name, residing in Greenwich, in the county of Kent, a proprietor of certain annuities and stock, transferable at the Bank of England, called Three per Cent. Reduced Annuities, for the purpose of transferring the sum of 500*l.* of said annuities to herself, with an intent to defraud the governor and company of the Bank of England, against the statute.

The counsel for the prosecution opened the case, by stating to the jury, that the governor and company of the Bank of England felt themselves bound, both for their own security, and the justice of the country, to bring this grievous charge against the unhappy young woman at the bar. The indictment imputes to her a capital offence; forgery, in whatever manner it may be committed, being always punished with death; and he had no doubt that he should be able to make out the facts of the case to be as clear as the law upon the subject. If it do not suit a proprietor of stock personally to transfer his property in the funds, it is the custom of the Bank to allow him to make out a deed, authorising any other person to make a transfer. These deeds are not prepared by the private solicitors of the parties, but issued by the Bank Directors themselves; and it is filled up and delivered to the party making the application, and it must be signed by the proprietor of stock, in presence of two witnesses. Such was the nature of the deed which the prisoner procured, authorising her to transfer 500*l.* Three per Cent. Annuities. On her offering it at the Bank, however, it appeared evident that the signature of Mr. Allin did not correspond with that inserted in their books, being very clumsily executed, and the name Benjamin written at full length, instead of being contracted, according to that gentleman's usual custom. From any examination which the prisoner had previously undergone, it appeared impossible for her to adduce any proof of her having been imposed upon, or to shew that she did not know but that the deed was really good, and actually signed by Mr.

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Allin.

Allin. He then proceeded to give a short statement of the facts as they came out in evidence.

George Francillon, a stock-broker, said, he was acquainted with the prisoner at the bar for five or six months, and recollected her applying to him on Saturday the 10th of December last, at the Bank Coffee-house, and requesting him to take out a power of attorney for the sale of 500*l.* Reduced. She told the witness it was to be taken out of the stock of a Mr. Benjamin Allin, of Greenwich, who, she said, was an elderly gentleman;—that she had been brought up in his family from her infancy, and that her aunt had been for many years house-keeper and nurse to Mr. Allin. The prisoner then said, that this 500*l.* stock was a gift made to her by Mr. Allin, for her great attention to him during her stay at his house. The witness, on hearing this, took out a power of attorney from the Bank-office, and delivered it to her that same day, which he desired her to take to Greenwich, in order to get it executed. She told the witness she would have it executed that afternoon, and return with it on the Monday morning, in order to transfer the stock into her own name. She accordingly brought back the deed on Monday morning, at eleven o'clock, executed in the name of Benjamin Allin. (The deed was here shewn to the witness, who attested it as being the same which the prisoner brought to him.) He then desired her to wait a few minutes, till he went to the proper officer at the Bank, in order to have the power passed; and as she had said she was inclined to sell the stock, he told her he would inquire the price of it in the market, and let her know. Having left the power of attorney at the Bank, he returned in about twenty minutes afterwards, and the clerk of that office told him that Mr. Bateman, the clerk who passed the powers, desired to see him. He accordingly went, in company with the prisoner, to that gentleman, who said, that the signature of Benjamin Allin differed from that gentleman's hand-writing, which they had at the Bank. The witness told Mr. Bateman he did not know Mr. Allin; that he only knew Ann Hurle, who wished the power of attorney. She, on being questioned by Mr. Bateman, said she had been brought up in Mr. Allin's

Allin's family from a child ; that he was a very old man, nearly ninety years of age, in a very infirm state of health, and, if the hand-writing differed, she could account for it in no other way, but by his not being accustomed to writing, which might occasion some difference in the signature ; but, if it was necessary, she said she would take out a fresh power of attorney. Mr. Bateman said it would be a pity to put her to additional expence in getting another ; and that as he had some recollection of an acquaintance with Mr. Peter Verney, a cheesemonger in Greenwich (whose name he saw on the deed as a witness) he told her she might take it to that gentleman, and get him to certify what he (Mr. Bateman) would write upon the power of attorney. Mr. Bateman accordingly wrote the words :—" The within Benjamin Allin has been for many years personally known to me." He then delivered the deed to the prisoner, and they parted. On leaving Mr. Bateman's office, the witness questioned her more particularly, and pressed her to give some account of herself. She said she had been married a few days before.

When the witness heard this, he expressed his surprise, and told her, that if she was married, the power of attorney ought to be taken out in her married name, and not in her maiden-name, and that a fresh power would on that account alone be necessary. She then told the witness she was very sorry she had dropped any thing about her being married, as she had every reason to believe that her marriage was not a good one. On being questioned by the witness relative to it, she gave him the following particulars : she said, that in going down to Bristol in the stage coach, a man of the name of James Innes, after a few days acquaintance, paid his addresses to her, and said that he would marry her ; that she had agreed to the proposal, and that a marriage accordingly took place. The witness asked her, what church they were married in ? To which she answered, that they were not married at a church, but at a private house, and that it was on an afternoon. She said, she soon, however, found out that the character of this man Innes was very bad ; and within two hours after the marriage, he took
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all the money she had with her, and even part of her clothes, and left her altogether ; that she afterwards heard he had entered on board a ship, and likewise that he was a married man, previous to his marriage with her. On her return to Greenwich, she acquainted her friends in what manner she had been used by Innes, and she said that all of them, and even Mr. B. Allin, requested of her to go by her own name of Ann Hurle, as she certainly was not lawfully married. Nothing further passed betwixt the prisoner and the witness on this occasion ; but she took the power of attorney, and said she would see him again on Tuesday morning. After she had left the witness, he was not satisfied in his own mind, whether she was actually married or not, and not wishing to run any risk, in identifying a married woman as a single woman, or a single one as being married, he called on Messrs. Owen and Hicks, attornies, who had recommended her to him : but they could give him no information on that point. She returned at the appointed time with the power of attorney, signed on the back “ Peter Verney, cheesemonger.” He again delayed settling the business, and put her off till Wednesday, intending in the mean time to make further enquiries concerning this power of attorney. Having found out where her father was, he went to him, and told the circumstance, and they both went to Greenwich that same afternoon. They were soon convinced of the deception. On the Wednesday he went to the Bank very early to call on Mr. Newman, of the Reduced-office ; and in going through the Rotunda of the Bank, he observed the prisoner and a man with her, standing near to the door. He said to her, “ You have come very early this morning : I’ll be with you in a minute ;” and immediately left her. He did not see her again till apprehended.— After mentioning the circumstances to Mr. Newman, he accompanied that gentleman to the Accountant-General’s office, and afterwards to the Directors of the Bank, to whom the witness delivered up the power of attorney.

Mr. Thomas Bateman, inspector of letters of attorney at the Bank, swore to the power of attorney shewn to him, as he had put a mark at the corner of it. On this witness stating his objection to the signature when the prisoner

prisoner called at his office along with the last witness, she said she expected it would be so, and that Mr. Allin had been so long out of the habit of writing, that her aunt had to sign all his drafts on his Banker. The deponent observed to her, that perhaps her aunt had also signed the power of attorney. To this she replied, "No, you may depend upon it that Mr. Allin has signed it himself." The deponent then said to her—"If I may put the question, what is this old gentleman going to do with this 500l.?" To this she answered that he was going to make her a present of it, for the great attention she had for many years paid him, and that her aunt was willing he should do so. He then inquired of her how the power of attorney came to be in such a mutilated state, it being torn across and wafered together. She gave as a reason, that just as it was going to be executed, the dog in Mr. Allin's house, had got hold of it, and torn it; but if that was any objection to the paper, she would take out a fresh one. The witness recollecting some acquaintance with Verney, one of the witnesses, asked her if she knew him? She said she did, and that he had been many years cheesemonger to the family. He observed to her, that if Verney would certify what he (the witness) would write on the back of the deed, he should then take the matter into further consideration. He accordingly wrote a certificate on the back of the deed, relative to Mr. Verney's personal knowledge of Mr. Allin, and gave it to the prisoner to get signed. Since that time he had had no conversation with her.

Benjamin Allin said, he resided at Greenwich, and had a person of the name of Jane Hurle in his service, and knew Ann Hurle, her niece, but had not been much in her company, nor in any company whatever. On being shewn the power of attorney, he deposed, that it was not his hand-writing, and that he had not signed any paper whatever since the first day of December. He had no occasion to sign any papers but receipts to receive money from his bankers: he had not written his name at full length for several years past: he never authorised any person to sell his stock. Did not know Peter Verney by name, though he might, perhaps, know him by sight.—
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Had seen a person of the name of Nowland (the other alleged witness to the deponent's signature,) but could not say that he had ever executed any deed in that person's presence. On being asked, if he ever signed any paper in presence of Peter Verney, this witness, who was quite superannuated, answered, "O Lord, I do not know that ever I did: Oh! no, I did not: If I did, can't those persons come and say it?" When he had occasion to sign papers, they were commonly presented to him by Jane Hurle, his housekeeper, an old lady, who attended to all his affairs.

Peter Verney, a cheesemonger at Greenwich, said that he never saw Mr. Benjamin Allin till this morning, as that gentleman always confined himself to his house: he farther deposed, that his hand-writing was not on the power of attorney shewn him.

Thomas Nowland deposed, that he never saw Mr. Allin but once, and that was about twelve years ago, when he was removed from one house in Greenwich to another. Knew the prisoner perfectly well, being related to her. His name on the deed, was not of his hand-writing.

Jane Hurle, aunt of the prisoner, said, she had resided twelve years in Mr. Allin's family as a housekeeper and attendant on him. She generally presented all papers for his signature. Had not seen her niece at Mr. Allin's house since Michaelmas last. Could not say that the signature on the power of attorney shewn her, was of Mr. Allin's writing, but it was like it, though she never saw him write the name of Benjamin at full length: never saw either of the witnesses mentioned in the deed, at the house of Mr. Allin, and they could not have access to him without her knowing it. From her earliest knowledge, Mr. Allin had confined himself to his lodging, and she believed he had done so for no less than fifty years.

The prisoner was here called on for her defence, but she made none, saying, she left it to her counsel. No witnesses were adduced to speak in her behalf. She was much affected, and fainted twice during the trial. The jury, after deliberating a short time, returned a verdict of guilty.

The unfortunate Ann Hurle was ordered for execution

tion, February 8, 1804.* For eight days she had taken but little nourishment; and her feelings, while attending the condemned sermon preached on Sunday, were so great, that she was several times deprived of sensation, and supposed to be dead. Her father, mother, and other relations, were with her during the gloomy hours of sadness that preceded her fate, the whole of whom she embraced for the last time. A petition was presented to His Majesty on her behalf; and an answer was returned, that she need not entertain hope of mercy, her crime being of that magnitude, that admitted of no other alternative than the execution of the law. She attempted to protract the fatal moment by pleading pregnancy, and so contrived to baffle the skill of the women appointed to examine her, that they could not come to any satisfactory decision. In order, therefore, to decide the point, the sheriffs had recourse to the judgment and experience of Doctor Thynne, whose report negatived the plea of the prisoner.

Ann Hurle was a young woman of very interesting appearance; and her whole demeanour at and previous to her execution manifested how little she expected pardon in this world. On Wednesday, the morning appointed for her execution, she was dressed in black, appeared pale, and incapable of regarding with attention the horrors of her situation.

She was brought out of the debtor's door in Newgate, at eight o'clock. The mode of execution by the drop having been for the present changed to that of the common gallows, she was put into a cart, and drawn to the place of execution in the widest part of the Old Bailey, where she expiated her offences in penitence and prayer. When the halter was fixed, she seemed inclined to speak, but her strength evidently failed, and she was incapable. Her appearance, upon the whole, excited emotions of

* Another convict was also ordered for execution, at the same time, but respited, viz. Daniel Fitzmaurice, who was found guilty of having returned from transportation before the expiration of his time. He had received sentence of death at Maidstone, for a burglary; which was afterwards mitigated to transportation. After this he was found at large, and received sentence of death at Guildford; which was again changed to transportation.

compassion among the spectators, who became at last so clamorous, that the sheriff, in a loud voice, described to them the impropriety of their behaviour; after which they were more silent. The caps having been pulled over the faces of the sufferers, the cart drew away. As it was going, she gave a faint scream, and, for two or three minutes after she was suspended, appeared to be in great agony, moving her hands up and down frequently.

An amazing concourse of spectators were collected on the occasion, all of whom commiserated her fate. She was executed along with Mathusalah Spalding, who was convicted of an unnatural crime.

MARY PARNELL,

EXECUTED AT NEWGATE, JULY 12, 1804, FOR FORGERY.

THE mischief attending forgery, is still greater in the hands of a female of address, than of the greatest adept of the other sex; because, in putting off the counterfeit, she is less suspected.

When we came to the case of Ann Hurle, we did not, indeed, expect so soon to bring forward another woman guilty, even in a greater degree, of the same mischievous offence. Ann Hurle made her attempt upon a weak individual; but Mary Parnell took the public at large to impose upon, to the ruin of many a poor family.

Mary Parnell was, according to her own account, an unfortunate girl, aged twenty-three, who was indicted at the Old Bailey, July 12, 1805, for feloniously forging, on the 9th of the preceding March, a certain Bank of England note, value 5*l.* with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. There were several other indictments of a similar nature.

Charles Baddeley, a shoe-maker, in the Strand, swore, that the prisoner came to his shop, March 9, and purchased two pair of shoes: they came to twelve shillings and sixpence: the prisoner tendered him a 5*l.* note.—Having looked at it, and compared it with another, he did

did not think it was a good one, and asked her where she had taken it. She said she could not tell. She took another bank-note out of her pocket, which appeared a good one. This, however, he returned, and said he would keep the first that she tendered, and take it to Bow-street, or the Bank, on Monday morning, desiring her to come on the Monday morning, when she should either have the note or the change. The prisoner never called on the appointed day. This witness was particular in identifying the person of the prisoner: as she held her pocket-book in her hand, he observed, that one of her fingers was cut across: it was an old sore.

William Wilmot, foreman to Mr. Baggett, shoe-maker, Cranbourne-alley, Leicester-fields, said, that the prisoner came to his master's shop, March 9, about eleven o'clock in the evening, and asked for two pair of shoes, one pair of double soles, and one pair of single; the price was eleven shillings and sixpence. She tendered a 5*l.* Bank of England note: it had no name whatever on it: it was quite new. She drew it from a little red pocket-book: she seemed to be confused while doing this, and appeared to have more notes in the pocket-book. The witness had not change enough in the till, and his master was not at home; he went therefore to Mr. Perkins, linen-draper, next door to Mr. Baggett's, and procured change for the note. On his return, his master came in: he gave the change to him, and Mr. Baggett gave it to the prisoner, who took it and the shoes.

William Perkins, linen-draper, corroborated the testimony of this last witness; and William Smith, a Bow-street patrol, said, he found a pair of shoes in the prisoner's lodgings, and showed them to Wilmot, who thought they were the shoes he sold to the prisoner: they were double soles, and of the same size and description.

Ann Levermore, who keeps the Pewter Platter, St. John-street, West Smithfield, said, that the young woman at the bar, came to her house some day between the 19th and 24th of March, for a quart of brandy, the price six shillings: she said she had nothing smaller than a 5*l.* note, which she took out of her pocket-book. The witness went up stairs for change, and a friend of hers, Eli-

zabeth Walter, who was sitting in the bar, saw her very much agitated. The witness gave her the change, and she asked the price of the bottle, which was three-pence. She told her to take sixpence for it. The witness gave the note to Mr. Harris, the collector of Mr. Hanbury, the brewer. She knew the note by the paleness of the Britannia, and the figures, 4 and 8, being larger than the others.

Elizabeth Walter confirmed the above. She suspected the note was a bad one, from the agitation of the prisoner; and when she was going away with the brandy, she desired her friend to send her little girl out, to watch where she went to.

James Cook, an apothecary, residing in Bridge Road, Surrey, said, that the prisoner at the bar, came to his shop, in the middle of April, to purchase a bottle of Gowland's Lotion. She offered a 5*l.* note, and not having change, he directed his boy to get change for the note.—She seemed anxious for the boy's return, and wished to get out, to see where he was gone. She was afraid, she said, the boy had lost the note. He was only gone about five or ten minutes. On his return, he gave her the remainder of the change. She had on a gown, with a white ground, and a chocolate spot.

Robert Godyere, the boy (twelve years old) said, he went to the next door, as ordered by his master, to get change; but the shop being shut up, he went to Mr. Gower, who keeps the Red Lion, Globe-place, who gave it to him.

William Gower confirmed the boy's testimony, and identified the note.

John Willats, a cutler, in the Poultry, said, the prisoner came to him on the 3d of May, and purchased a dozen knives and forks, which came to thirty-three shillings. She offered a 5*l.* note in payment, and gave her address, Ann Brown, No. 37, Wood-street, which name and address he wrote on the note.

Stephen Walker, who lived two years at No. 37, Wood-street, Cheapside, said, that no person of the name of Brown, nor the prisoner at the bar, ever resided in the house since he lived there.

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The inspector of bank-notes of the Bank of England and the engraver to the Bank, proved Mr. Baddeley's note, Mr. Baggett's note, Mrs. Levermore's, Mr. Cook's, and Mr. Willats's forgeries:—they were signed also with names, which did not exist in the Bank as cashiers.

Edward Crocker, one of the Bow-street patrols, who searched the prisoner's lodgings, in company with Mr. Bliss, found a gown, (which the prisoner acknowledged to be her's) and a bottle of lotion. Mr. Cook said, that the bottle was like that which he sold, and the gown like that which the woman had on that purchased it.

The prisoner, in her defence, said, she was a very remarkable person, and it was very odd they could not give a better description of her. She had a particular cut on her hand, as well as on her finger, and she had but one eye, which had not been observed by any of the witnesses. As for the Gowland's Lotion, a gentleman, she said, made her a present of it, with a shawl. She had no witnesses in her behalf, and the jury found her guilty. She was executed as above-mentioned.

ROBERT ASLETT,

ASSISTANT CASHIER OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR EMBEZZLING PUBLIC PROPERTY TO A LARGE AMOUNT, ENTRUSTED TO HIS CHARGE, AND RESPITED DURING HIS MAJESTY'S PLEASURE, NOV. 18, 1804.

THE royal mercy which in many instances we have shewn refused to culprits who were generally thought proper objects of clemency, was extended to this great offender.

Mr. Aslett had been in the employ of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England for about twenty-five years, and had conducted himself faithfully and meritoriously until he had been induced, unfortunately, to speculate in the funds; and, in dereliction to that duty and fidelity which he owed to his employers, had subtracted immense sums from the property entrusted to his care.

In the year 1799, having gone through the necessary
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and regular gradations, he was appointed one of the cashiers. It was a part of the business of the Bank to purchase Exchequer Bills, to supply the exigencies of government; the purchases were entrusted to the care of a very meritorious and excellent officer (Mr. A. Newland) but on account of that gentleman's growing infirmities, having been fifty-eight years in the service of the Bank, the management was left wholly under the care and direction of Mr. Aslett. These purchases were made of Mr. Goldsmid, by the means of Mr. Templeman, the broker. It was usual to make out a bill in the name of the person from whom they were purchased, which was delivered to Mr. Aslett, to examine and enter them in what is called the bought-book, and he then gave orders to the cashiers to reimburse the broker. The bills were afterwards deposited in a strong chest, kept in Mr. Newland's room, and when they had increased in bulk by subsequent purchases, they were selected by Mr. Aslett, tied up in large bundles, and carried to the parlour, that is to say, the room in which the Directors held their meetings, accompanied by one of the clerks, with the original book of entry, when the Directors in waiting received the envelope, and deposited them in the strong iron chest, which had three keys, and to which none but the Directors had access; nor could they be brought forth until the course of payment, unless by consent of at least two of the Directors. Therefore it was not possible for them to find their way into the hands of the public or the monied market, unless embezzled for that purpose.— On the 26th of February, 1803, Mr. Aslett, according to the practice, made up three envelopes of Exchequer Bills, of 1000*l.* each bill; the first containing bills to the amount of 100,000*l.*; the second 200,000*l.*; and the third 400,000*l.*; making in the whole 700,000*l.*: these were, or in fact ought to have been carried into the parlour, and were signed as being received by two of the Directors, Messrs. Puget and Smith; one of these bundles, namely, that containing the 200,000*l.* worth of bills, was withdrawn.

The confidence which the Governor and Company placed in Mr. Aslett had enabled him to conceal the transaction

transaction from the 26th of February to the 9th of April; and it was next to an impossibility that it should be discovered, as no period of payment had arrived; but on that day, in consequence of an application made by Mr. Bish, the whole was discovered. On the 16th of March, Mr. Aslett went to that gentleman, and requested he would purchase for him 50,000*l.* Consols, to which request no objection was made, provided he deposited the requisite securities. The fluctuation of the market at that time was six per cent. and Aslett, in order to cover any deficit, deposited with Mr. Bish three Exchequer Bills, Nos. 341, 1060, 2694, and which he knew had been previously deposited in the Bank. From some circumstances, and from his general knowledge of the whole of the business of the funds, Mr. Bish suspected all was not right, and accordingly went to the Bank, where an investigation took place, at which Mr. B. Watson, one of the Directors, was present. Mr. Newland was sent for, and asked, whether any of the Exchequer Bills could, by possibility, get into the market again from the Bank, to which he answered in the negative, observing they were a dormant security. The same question was put to Mr. Aslett, and the same answer given by him. It was found necessary to tell him, that the bills in question, which could be proved to have been in the Bank, had found their way into the money-market; and at the same time it was observed, that he had made purchases to a large amount, of stock, with the bills: this was acknowledged by him; but he said he had done so for a friend named Hosier, residing at the west end of the town, and he declared they were not Bank property, nor to be found in the bought book. The Directors, however, were not satisfied on this point, and he was immediately secured. His trial was however postponed till July, as it occurred to those employed in the prosecution, that the bills in question had been issued with an informality in them, not having the signature of the Auditor of the Exchequer. They were aware of the objections that might be taken, and Parliament not then being sitting, it was thought adviseable to postpone the trial, lest it might create an alarm in the money-market. The fact was no
sooner

sooner known, than a bill was brought into Parliament for remedying those defects, and to render the bills valid.

On Friday, July 8, 1804, Mr. Aslett's trial commenced. Mr. Garrow, on the part of the prosecution, stated the facts above mentioned; but when about to call witnesses to give evidence, Mr. Erskine insisted that the Exchequer Bills, which the prisoner stood charged with having stolen, were not good bills till the Act of Parliament had made them so; and consequently that they were pieces of waste paper when stolen. The Chief Baron Macdonald, Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence concurred, that the present indictment could not be maintained; and the jury were accordingly desired to acquit the prisoner. He was afterwards tried on nine other indictments, but the evidence being the same, Mr. Garrow applied to the court to detain him in custody, it being (he said) the intention of the Bank Directors to issue a civil process against him for 100,000*l.* and upwards, the monies paid for the bills which he had converted to his own use.

Mr. Kirby at first hesitated to receive the prisoner, understanding he was acquitted; but was peremptorily desired by the court to take him back.

Mr. Aslett was dressed in a lightish brown coat, his hair full-powdered. He appeared quite collected, but held his head down, never once looking up, except when the application was made to keep him in custody, when he expressed symptoms of great surprize, and looked very steadfastly at the court.

On Saturday, September 17, at a quarter before ten o'clock, Mr. Aslett was again brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, before Baron Chambre and Mr. Justice Le Blanc. The prisoner was attended by four or five gentlemen, who continued in the Dock during the whole time of the trial.

Three indictments were read, with two counts in each. The three indictments charged the prisoner with secret-ing and embezzling three notes. The first indictment was, for that he, being an officer or servant of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, had secret-ed,

ed, and embezzled a certain piece of paper, partly written and partly printed, being No. 835, purporting to be of the value of 500l.; the second, 2694, for 1000l.; and the third, No. 6061, for 1000l. One count in each stated them as securities of the said Governor and Co. and the other as effects belonging to the said Governor and Co. There were other counts diversifying the statement of the property in other forms, such as were deemed to come within the law.

A jury was after some time empannelled, Mr. Aslett's counsel having challenged fifteen, eleven having been absent, and one who was summoned having died on Friday morning.

Mr. Giles, the junior counsel for the prosecution, opened the case.

Mr. Garrow then stated it at considerable length to the jury. There was one point to which he called the particular attention of the Court and Jury; and that was, that the gentleman had been tried before, and acquitted of the charge of purloining Exchequer Bills to an immense amount: as it was then proved to the satisfaction of the learned judges on the bench, for whom he entertained the highest respect, that they were not actually such as might in law be termed Exchequer Bills, in consequence of their not having been signed as the act directs. The present indictments, however, stated them as papers *purporting* to be Exchequer Bills, which they evidently were on the face of them, and subdivided the charge by stating them at one time as securities, and at another time as effects belonging to the Company. This he had no doubt that the jury would be convinced of upon hearing them read; and it was an important duty which the Bank owed to the public, that they should not suffer so great a delinquent to escape the justice of the country in consequence of any want of exertion on their part.

Mr. Erskine, in behalf of the prisoner, delivered a most animated address to the jury. He stated that the former indictments against the gentleman at the bar had been objected to on grounds which were approved of by the learned judges who then sat upon the bench.—He was now brought up again to be tried for exactly the

same offence, though differently stated ; and he thought that the present proceeding was liable to the same objections which were then admitted to be valid by the bench ; but he should oppose it on much stronger grounds. He then stated the exception which had been taken to the legality of Mr. Jennings's signature, in the place of that of Lord Grenville, as Auditor of the Exchequer. That the same illegality, in a criminal sense, existed with respect to all bills issued at that time from the Exchequer, was manifest from the circumstance of the legislature having found it necessary to pass an act expressly for the purpose of making them legal in a civil view ; and that act had a most humane proviso, which declared in plain terms that the act was to be considered to make the Exchequer Bills issued at that time valid only in a civil view, and was not to have any retrospective view to any criminal offence committed before the passing of that act. He then read the proviso in the act. The learned gentleman stated, that, as securities, they were nothing in law, for a person, at the time of their being passed, could not recover at law ; he was not therefore legally secured by the possession of such bills. As to the idea of calling them effects, he considered that, though the legislature had thought proper to pass an act for the protection of that Company above all others, by passing what is generally termed the Bank Act, in consequence of the immense magnitude of that concern, yet effects must obviously mean the same as in a case of petty larceny would be considered as effects ; that is, something intrinsically valuable in themselves, without taking in, or mixing in the mind, the idea of their professional or avowed value. If that was not the case, a clerk who took away a loose half-sheet of paper lying about the office, or a pen that was worn to the stump, came within the limits of the act, and would be liable to a prosecution for felony. If he did not know the highly respectable character which that Company supported, and the very great ability by which they were counselled, he should be induced to say that the prosecution of the gentleman at the bar a second time, for exactly the same offence of which he had been before acquitted by law, was vexatious ; and he should declare,

declare, not only as a lawyer, but as a man, that they were rather inclined to be severe towards the prisoner, than that they should be thought in the least to relax from their duty, or from an idea of justice to the public. The articles stated in the indictments must either be really and *bonâ fide* Exchequer Bills, or else they were no securities; they were no effects in law; they were no more than pieces of waste paper, for the embezzlement of which he had never known a prosecution to be sustained at law. The generosity of government, or the justice of the country, could not at that time pay a single farthing for them; the strings of the national purse were only to be drawn by the consent of the legislature, and at that time there was no such consent obtained; the articles in the indictment were at that time nothing but so many pieces of waste, printed, and written paper, which had not been called into existence as any thing of valuable property, as any effects belonging to the Bank which had obtained the sanction of Parliament; they had not been animated by the breath of the legislature. The learned gentleman then quoted several cases from the reports of the most eminent law-writers, stating that chattels or effects must be something valuable intrinsically in themselves; and said that it was his firm belief that the learned judges at present on the bench would deliver a charge similar in effect to that which had already been delivered by the learned judges sitting on that bench at the time of Mr. Aslett's former trial; he believed that they would find themselves in the same situation, and instruct the jury to give a verdict for the acquittal of that gentleman without hearing any evidence upon the case, as, in his opinion, it was not such as could be supported in law.

Mr. Serjeant Best followed on the same side. He also adverted to the passing of the act last session to make the Exchequer Bills then passed valid, and from thence inferred that it was an implied proof of the idea which the legislature entertained that they were otherwise of no value. He also read a clause in the Bank Act with respect to articles secreted or embezzled by any officer or servant of the Bank, which enumerated "bullion, money, or other effects;" and contended that it was such an as-

sociation of ideas as must naturally lead any man to consider the company in which those words were found ; the act must certainly mean other effects, *ejusdem generis*.— If a person was to pay for base metal as gold, that payment was not sufficient to constitute its value, nor make it be considered as gold : he therefore concluded that his client was entitled to acquittal, as nothing valuable had been taken, notwithstanding it might be asserted that the Bank had paid for them as such.

Mr. Garrow was rising to reply, when

Mr. Justice Le Blanc observed, that he did not think that the present was that clear case upon which he could immediately decide. There might be found, perhaps, a difference in the definition of a case of larceny and that of felony. At present he thought it most advisable that the Court should proceed into a hearing of the evidence to be adduced, and reserve the disputed point of law for the opinion of all the judges.

Mr. Robert Best, secretary of the Bank, was called first in evidence. He stated, that Mr. Aslett was engaged as a clerk in the Bank on the 19th of March, 1778 ; on the 19th of September, 1793, he was appointed assistant to Mr. Abraham Newland ; and on the 17th of January, 1799, he was raised to the situation of cashier to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.— Mr. Aslett had, during the whole of that time, conducted himself with the utmost integrity and respectability.

Mr. Abraham Newland, the principal cashier, deposed, that Mr. Aslett or himself always signed the order for payment of the bought Exchequer Bills : an entry was regularly made in the bought-book by the one or other of them ; they were then given in to the Directors in the parlour, where they were put into a strong closet, and could not possibly get out again into the market unless by fraud. It was frequently some weeks, he said, before they were delivered in by the cashiers, which was sometimes done by Mr. Aslett, and at other times by himself. On the 25th of February, the day stated in the indictment, Mr. Aslett had given the bills in. He also bore most honourable testimony to the good character of
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the prisoner, and stated the high estimation in which he was held by the Directors.

Mr. Abraham Goldsmid swore, that on the 3d of December, 1802, his house had sold 85,000l. in Exchequer Bills to the Bank of England, and proved that Mr. Aslett's signature was subscribed to the order for payment.

Mr. Benjamin Kiddell generally made out the order for payment, and a bill of parcels to correspond; he then took them to Mr. Aslett to sign. He swore to Mr. Aslett's handwriting.

Several witnesses proved that various Exchequer Bills outstanding in the market had been bought up by the Bank, particularly those which were in the hands of Meesrs. Cole, Templeman, and Co. to the amount of 31,985l. 2s. 2d. which were bought on the 11th of December, 1802, and the money paid for them by the Bank of England.

Mr. William Horton, a hosier in Newgate-street, about the latter end of March or beginning of April, had lent Mr. Aslett 11,000l. Consols, for which he received a deposit of Exchequer Bills, a list of which he delivered into court, and swore to its correctness. Among the numbers was one of those stated in the indictment.

Mr. Chambers, a merchant in Dove-court, St. Swithin's-lane, had received a deposit of 10,000l. on the 16th of March; 16,000l. on the 17th ditto; and 17,000l. on the 9th of April; all in Exchequer Bills, to secure a loan of Consols.

Mr. James Vansummer, a broker, had borrowed 15,000l. for the prisoner, of the houses of Messrs. Down and Co. and Messrs. Chambers and Co., for which he got a deposit of Exchequer Bills to the amount of 30,000l.

Mr. T. Bish, stock-broker and lottery-office keeper, deposed that the prisoner came to his house on the 15th of March, and desired him to purchase 50,000l. Consols for him. Mr. B. endeavoured to dissuade him from making such a hazardous enterprise, as it was very probable that the funds would be liable to very great fluctuation. Mr. A. he said, then asked him how much
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would be the probable fluctuation ; and the witness told him probably five or six per cent. Mr. Aslett persisted in his disposition to purchase, and deposited with the witness three Exchequer Bills of 1000l. each. He bought the stock on account, for the next opening, three times over ; but, from some suspicion arising in his mind as to the propriety of such bills being in the market, he waited on some of the Directors, and communicated his suspicion. Upon this an inquiry was instituted, and Mr. Aslett was taken into custody.

The numbers of the various bills were compared with the bought-book ; when it was found that they had been already bought in by the Bank, and that they were entered as delivered on the 26th of February, in an envelope, which was endorsed as containing 200,000l.

Mr. John Puget, a Director, deposed that he and Mr. Smith, another Director, attended in the parlour on the above day for the purpose of receiving the bought-up bills. Mr. Aslett had that day delivered in four parcels, the first of which was to the amount of 200,000l. of the supply of 1802. The parcel was supposed to be placed in the strong closet, immediately after the witness had signed the entry ; but, had it been really placed there, he did not suppose that they could possibly find their way into the market again, as that closet was never opened but in the presence of two Directors, and had three locks.

Mr. Winthrop, the Deputy Governor, stated the particulars of Mr. Bish's communication, and the circumstance of Mr. Aslett having been taxed with being concerned in the fraud. At first he hesitated : he then said that he had got them from a Mr. Hosier ; which not proving satisfactory, he was committed by Mr. Alderman Watson. The bills were entered in the bought-book as bought up.

Mr. Alderman Watson corroborated the statement of the last witness ; and mentioned that, at the time of the private examination of Mr. Aslett, he had acquainted him that he need not answer any question that might tend to criminate himself.

Mr. Boddington, of the cash-office, proved the circumstance of Mr. Aslett's desk having been broke open on
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the 11th of April, when it was found to contain an envelope marked as 200,000*l.* in bills, of the supply of 1802, and 109 bills to the amount of 16,000*l.* which were given to the Directors then in the parlour.

Mr. Hase proved that the contents of the strong closet were 200,000*l.* less than the entries in the bought-book.

The prisoner, being called on for his defence, said that he trusted entirely to his counsel.

Mr. Erskine observed to the Court that he had a host of witnesses to produce to the character of his client; but that, on account of the honourable testimony which his learned friend, Mr. Garrow, and several of the principal witnesses, had given of the very high and respectable character which Mr. Aslett had supported for such a number of years up to the time mentioned in the indictment, he should think it unnecessary to take up the time of the Court by hearing the evidence which he had it in his power to bring.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc delivered a most minute and able charge, going through the entire of the evidence in the most clear and correct manner, and informing the jury that they were only for the present to consider whether the prisoner had been proved to have secreted or embezzled the articles stated in the indictment. If they were of opinion that he had, they were bound to find the prisoner guilty. If there was any doubt upon their mind whether he might not have obtained possession of them by committing a burglary, or in any other manner than that stated in the indictment, they would find him not guilty.

The jury consulted together for about five minutes, and then returned a verdict of "Guilty" against the prisoner.

The Court was exceedingly crowded, and the trial lasted till six o'clock.

Mr. Aslett betrayed neither a symptom of fear nor levity, but seemed to pay the greatest attention to every thing that passed, and conducted himself with a becoming firmness throughout the whole of the trial. When the verdict was pronounced there was a great buz in the Court: Mr. Aslett waited for about two minutes, then bowed

bowed to the Court, and withdrew, accompanied by his friends.

February 16, 1804, Mr. Aslett was brought to the bar to receive his sentence, when Mr. Baron Hotham addressed him as follows:

“ Robert Aslett, you were tried and convicted in this Court, in the September sessions, 1803, for embezzling effects belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, you being an officer and servant of that Bank, and, as such, entrusted with their property. The indictment stated, in the first count, that you, being in the employment of the said Bank, and being entrusted with a certain paper, partly printed, and partly written, commonly called an Exchequer Bill, purporting to be for 500l. did feloniously secrete and embezzle the same, it being the property of the said Company, and remaining unpaid and unsatisfied to them, as holders thereof. The indictment then set forth two other bills, each for 1000l. which you, as an officer and servant of the Governor and Company aforesaid, did also secrete, embezzle, and run away with. You have thus been charged in the indictment with having feloniously secreted and embezzled property belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, to the amount of 2,500l. and that against the statute and king's peace. There were other counts in the indictment, which did not state the paper to be of any value; but shewing that the Governor and Company had, on the credit and security of such pieces of paper, advanced a certain sum of money, which was then unpaid and unsatisfied to the Bank. Other counts again called these pieces of paper securities, instead of money or effects. It was argued by your counsel that those bills were not valid or legal bills, having been signed by a person not properly authorized by Lord Grenville, though they had been issued as good, and paid as such. On this indictment you have been lawfully convicted by a jury of your countrymen, but judgment has been suspended till the opinion of the twelve judges of England was taken on this important case, in order to ascertain whether these bills were good, according to the statute 15 Geo. II. Eleven of these judges were

were of opinion, that some of the objections, so ably argued by your counsel, should be sustained: they have since held various conferences, which produced various different opinions; and it is now my duty to communicate to you the result of their investigation. Several points were urged in your favour, such as, supposing that the offence with which you have been charged was of such a description as to fall within the Act of 15 Geo. II. c. 13. you stood acquitted by the statute passed in the reign of Geo. III. which operated as a repeal of the former. It is, however, unnecessary for me now to enlarge upon this topic, or to state the reasons which occasioned all of the judges, ultimately, to be of a different opinion. I am authorized by them to say, that they entertain no doubt upon the subject; and that they all concur in opinion, that nothing is contained in the second act which can operate as a repeal of the first act. The only question which then remained for their consideration was, whether or not these bills fell within the meaning of the statute 15 Geo. II. and could be denominated effects according to that act. On this point, indeed, the judges were not unanimous, but the majority are of opinion that they are effects and securities within the true meaning of the act. In order to make the matter more intelligible, I shall read to you the clause of that act to which I particularly allude:—

“Be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any officer or servant of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England be entrusted with any note, bill, dividend, warrant, bond, deed, or other security or effects, belonging to the said company, or, having any such security from any other person lodged with the said company, shall secrete, embezzle, or run away with any such note, &c. every officer or servant so offending shall suffer,” as the act directs. The great object of the legislature was to add security and administer protection to the Bank of England. The immense national concerns, with which it was and still is entrusted, called upon the legislature for particular provisions in its favour. The principles of legislation must now be applied to the object then under contemplation; and the view we take of any code of

laws must be more comprehensive, when it concerns so materially such a large incorporated body, than when it only relates to private individuals. Considering this law then in the enlarged and liberal view on which it was framed by the legislature, (at the same time that all the judges disclaim any wish to strain any part of it where it is so penal,) the recollection of the enormous weight of Exchequer Bills, in which the public were so deeply and materially concerned, cannot fail to occur to every mind. That these bills had become the fair and valuable property of the Bank was allowed on all hands, but still it was argued that they were not such securities as fell within the true meaning of the Act of Parliament, because they were not of any positive or intrinsic value. Now, whatever shall be deposited with the Bank was expressly guarded by the words of the act; and, although the bills in question be of no descriptive legal value, yet they carry about them such a consequence at least as may make their preservation of the utmost importance to the Bank. In that view, therefore, they surely have their value. The very Exchequer Bills which they would be, were the defects removed, the government of the country were called on to pay, in as much as they have been issued under the authority of parliament. They were given as valid bills; and the holders of them have as strong a claim, I will not say upon the honour only, but even upon the justice and equity of parliament, for the payment of them, as if they had been perfectly correct in every particular, and in all their parts. They are at least valuable papers, whatever they may be called, and the holders of them have them as such, having paid for them the value which they respectively import. They are therefore to be included in the true meaning of the word securities, which may be in the end available to any person who may be possessed of them. Nor are they less to be deemed included under the meaning of the word effects, which is confined to no particular species of property, but may consist either of specie or any other article whatever. It was this that the legislature had in view when the act was passed; for, be they effects, or securities, or both of them, they import value upon the face

face of them. The embezzling or secreting of such effects or securities, constituting part of the property of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, is not (by the act alluded to) made larceny, but it is created a felony, which does away the necessity of any value being ascertained. But it must be acknowledged, that these bills of themselves are such a species of security, or effects, as no man would hesitate about giving the value for which appears on the face of them. They are such effects or securities, that, if a bankrupt had got value for them, he would be bound by law to account to his creditors for them, as a part of his just debt. An executor, who found such bills in the possession of his testator, would be bound to pay a tax for them to government, as making part of that property which might fall into his hands; and he would be liable to punishment were he to destroy them. But it was argued, that the words were to be construed in a manner that they would not ascribe value to things which were perfectly nugatory in themselves, as pieces of waste paper, &c. The judges, however, have not found themselves driven to that extreme length in construing the Act of Parliament, which they have so minutely considered. Their judgment only goes to the express words of the act itself, referring to such securities or effects only as are entrusted to the officers or servants of the Bank. These bills, therefore, being of such a nature, as that government were bound to correct all deficiencies or irregularities, and pay the amount to the Bank, who had purchased them for a valuable consideration, the majority of the judges are of opinion, that they are really the effects and securities of the Bank, falling under the construction of the Act 15th Geo. II. and that their embezzlement by you, being an officer and servant of that company, subjects you, in point of law, to conviction upon the indictment on which you was found guilty.

Mr. Aslett bowed respectfully to the Court; and, as he expressed but little agitation on hearing the unfavourable decision of the twelve judges, it was supposed he must have been previously prepared for the fatal opinion.

On the Monday following, February 20, 1804, this unfortunate man received sentence of death, and appear-

ed wretchedly dejected. When he was asked what he had to say why judgment of death should not be passed upon him, he answered "Nothing; I resign myself to my fate." He never looked up the whole time the Recorder was addressing him, and left the Court under great perturbation of mind. A report of his case was not made to the King by the Recorder till November 18th, when he was respited during his Majesty's pleasure, and for some years remained a prisoner in Newgate. Ultimately, however, he was permitted to transport himself from his majesty's dominions.

ELIZABETH LARGHAN,

EXECUTED AT CHELMSFORD, MARCH 21, 1804, FOR THE MURDER OF
HER FEMALE INFANT CHILD.

THIS wretched woman was tried on the 8th of March, 1804, before Mr. Baron Hotham, at the Chelmsford Assizes: she was the wife of James Larghan, a private in the 18th light dragoons.

This was not the usual case of the murder of a bastard child. The facts were very few, and very conclusive: they were proved by the woman who kept the Sawyers' Arms public house at Colchester, and her servants.

James Philbrick, the surgeon, stated, that he was called in on the 13th of July last; he was shewn the child, which, from appearances, he undertook to say, had been born alive. A string was tied round the neck, by which the vessel of the head was very turgid, and the eyes much bloodshot. The ligature had also caused a livid mark all round the neck. The bag was very much blooded, which would not have been the case if the child had been dead-born. She then told him that her husband had often upbraided her with his being reproached by his comrades that she was with child before he married her, and that the child of which she was pregnant was none of his; and that, in order to keep the secret of her delivery from her husband, she had tied the string round the infant's neck to prevent its crying.

Mr. Baron Hotham addressed the jury with his usual humanity on behalf of the accused, and observed that
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this was not the case which usually occurred, of the death of a bastard child ; but it was one in which the indictment charged the prisoner with the murder of her child, without those motives which sometimes leads to the commission of that crime. He told them that, before they found a verdict of guilty against the prisoner, they must be convinced in their own minds that the child was born alive, and that it perished by the wilful act of the prisoner ; for if it was born dead, or came by its death accidentally, though the prisoner was not aware of its death, and applied the string meaning to destroy it, yet, if she did not in fact perpetrate that intention, they must acquit her.

The jury deliberated about half an hour, and then returned a verdict of Guilty.

The learned judge, in a short but feeling address, passed the sentence of the law upon the prisoner, that she should be hanged on Saturday morning next (March 21st), and afterwards her body to be dissected and anatomized. The prisoner was a very decent-looking woman, apparently about thirty years of age. During her trial she was much agitated, and after the verdict seemed nearly insensible : at the place of execution she behaved with penitence and great resignation.

FRANCIS SMITH,

CONDEMNED TO DEATH, FOR THE MURDER OF THE SUPPOSED HAMMER-SMITH GHOST, BUT WHOSE PUNISHMENT WAS COMMUTED FOR IMPRISONMENT.

SUPERSTITION of old, in the beginning of the enlightened year 1804, was revived in the vicinity of Hammersmith, near London, where the inhabitants were possessed with an opinion that a ghost haunted their neighbourhood ; but the fancied spectre was proved to be composed of human flesh and blood, which were unfortunately mangled and shed unto death by the unhappy man whose case is now before us.

The wanton performer of the pretended spirit merited severe punishment, for, with the frogs to the mischievous boys, who were pelting them with stones, they might truly

truly have said, "It is *sport* to you, but *death* to us." Besides, the poor man who lost his life, being mistaken for this mimic ghost, Smith was condemned to die for the murder.

One poor woman in particular, who was far advanced in her pregnancy of a second child, was so much shocked, that she took to her bed, and survived only two days. She had been crossing near the church-yard about ten o'clock at night, when she beheld something, as she described, rise from the tomb-stones. The figure was very tall, and very white! She attempted to run, but the ghost soon overtook her, and, pressing her in his arms, she fainted; in which situation she remained some hours, till discovered by some neighbours, who kindly led her home, when she took to her bed, from which, alas! she never rose.

The ghost had so much alarmed a waggoner belonging to Mr. Russel, driving a team of eight horses, and which had sixteen passengers at the time, that the driver took to his heels, and left the waggon and horses so precipitately, that the whole were greatly endangered.

Neither man, woman, nor child, could pass that way for some time past; and the report was, that it was the apparition of a man who had cut his throat, in the neighbourhood above a year ago.

Several lay in wait different nights for the ghost; but there were so many by-lanes and paths leading to Hammersmith, that he was always sure of being on that which was unguarded, and every night played off his tricks to the terror of the passengers.

Francis Smith, doubtless incensed at the unknown person who was in the habit of assuming this supernatural character, and thus frightening the superstitious inhabitants of the village, rashly determined on watching for, and shooting, the ghost; when unfortunately he shot a poor innocent man, Thomas Millwood, a brick-layer, who was in a white dress, the usual habiliment of his occupation. This rash act having been judged wilful murder by the coroner's inquest, Smith was accordingly committed to gaol, and took his trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, January 13; when Mr. John Locke,

Locke, wine-merchant, living in Hammersmith, stated, that on the 3d of January, about half-past ten in the evening, he met the prisoner, who told him he had shot a man, whom he believed to be the pretended ghost of Hammersmith.

A rumour of a ghost walking about at night had prevailed for a considerable time. He went with the prisoner, in company with Mr. Stowe and a watchman, up Limekiln-lane, to Blacklion-lane, where the deceased was lying apparently dead.

The witness and Mr. Stowe consulted together upon what was proper to be done, and they directly sent for the high constable. The body had no appearance of life; there was a shot in the left jaw. The prisoner was much agitated. The witness told him the consequences likely to result from his misconduct. The prisoner replied that he fired, but did not know the person whom he had shot; he also said that, before he fired, he spoke twice to the deceased, but received no answer.

Mr. Const, for the prisoner, cross-examined this witness. For five weeks previous to this melancholy catastrophe the ghost had been the subject of general conversation in Hammersmith. He had never seen it. The dress in which the ghost was said to appear corresponded with that worn by the deceased, being white. The deceased had on white trowsers, down to his shoes; a white apron round him, and a flannel jacket on his body. The ghost sometimes appeared in white, and frequently in a calf's skin.

The prisoner was so agitated when the witness met him that he could hardly speak. The deceased, after the prisoner called out, continued to advance towards him, which augmented his fear so much that he fired. The witness described the evening as very dark. Blacklion-lane was very dark at all times, being between hedges; and on that evening it was so very obscure, that a person on one side of the road could not distinguish an object on the other.

The prisoner, when he first mentioned the accident, expressed to the witness his wish that he would take him into custody, or send for some person to do so. The prisoner

soner was a man mild and humane, and of a generous temper.

William Girdle, the watchman, in Hammersmith, after stating that he went to the spot with Mr. Locke, described the posture in which the deceased was found. He was lying on his back, stretched out, and quite dead. His left jaw was broken by a shot. The prisoner came to the witness, and said he had hurt a man, and, he was afraid, very badly. Previous to this the prisoner told him he was going to look after the ghost. The witness replied that he would join him after crying the hour, and that they would search the lanes together. They agreed on a watch-word: "Who comes there?—A friend—Advance, friend." The witness went his rounds, and, just before he got to Blacklion-lane, he heard the report of a gun. He took no notice of that circumstance, as he frequently heard firing in the night. He did not see a gun lying by the deceased. The prisoner offered to deliver himself up.

On his cross-examination, the witness said that he himself was armed with a pistol, as other watchmen are. He had seen the supposed ghost himself on the Thursday before, being the 29th of December. It was covered with a sheet or large table-cloth. He encountered it opposite the four-mile stone, and pursued it, but without success, as the spirit pulled off the sheet and ran. The alarm had been very great for six weeks or two months, and many people had been terribly frightened. He knew the prisoner, and he was by no means a cruel man.

Anne Millwood, sister to the deceased, was next called. The Lord Chief Baron lamented that any questions relative to this melancholy affair should be put to her, but for the ends of justice they were rendered indispensably necessary. She stated that she lived with her father and mother: between ten and eleven on the evening of the third of January, her brother called; he had been to inquire for his wife, who was at Mr. Smith's, the outrider. The witness and her mother were going to bed, and her mother asked the deceased whether his wife had come home. He replied that she had not. She then desired him to sit down, and wait for her half an hour. He sat
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till the witness heard the clock go eleven. She then desired him to go home; and he got up and went away, wishing the witness a good night. He shut the door behind him, and the witness directly went and opened it, stepped out, and stood on some bricks, looking after him. At that instant she heard a voice exclaim, "Damn you, who are you, and what are you? I'll shoot you, if you don't speak." This address was directly followed by the discharge of a gun. The witness, exceedingly alarmed for her brother's safety, called out Thomas three or four times. The witness then went into the house, but she could not persuade either her father, mother, or a gentleman who lodged with them, that any accident had befallen her brother. She went out alone, and found him quite dead. She ran for assistance to a neighbour's house, and, in returning from it, she saw the prisoner, Mr. Locke, Mr. Stowe, and the watchman.

Her brother was in his usual working-dress, as described by the first witness in his cross-examination. The witness added, that she had heard great talk of a ghost stalking up and down the neighbourhood, all in white, with *horns* and *glass eyes*, but she did not know that any body had ever watched in order to discover and detect the impostor.

Mr. Flower, a surgeon at Hammersmith, saw the body the day following the accident: on the 6th instant examined it by order of Mr. Hodgson, the coroner. He found that the deceased had received a gun-shot wound on the left lower jaw, with small shot, as he thought No. 4, which penetrated to the vertebra of the neck, and injured the spinal marrow, which is a continuation of the brain. The face of the deceased was black, and that blackness was occasioned by the discharge of powder from a gun. The wound in the jaw was doubtless the cause of Milwood's death. He knew Smith; he was not a vindictive, but, on the contrary, a remarkably mild man.

A constable then stated that the prisoner had surrendered to him, and that he had been two days in his custody.

This finished the case for the prosecution.

The prisoner, having been called upon for his defence, said he would leave it to his counsel ; but on being told that they could not speak on his behalf, being only allowed to examine the witnesses, he stated, that he went out with no bad design or intention ; and that, when the unfortunate accident happened, he knew not what he did. He solemnly declared his innocence, and that he had no intention or idea of taking the life of any one.

The prisoner's counsel then called Mrs. Fullbrook, mother-in-law to the deceased ; she said, that on the Saturday evening before his death, he told her that two ladies and a gentleman had taken fright at him, as he was coming down the Terrace, thinking he was the ghost. He told them he was no more a ghost than any of them, and asked the gentleman if he wished for a punch in the head. The witness advised the deceased in future to put on a great coat, in order that he might not encounter any danger.

Thomas Groom was called, as it would appear, to prove that some supernatural being actually visited the town of Hammersmith. He said he was servant to Mr. Burgess, a brewer, and that as he and a fellow-servant were going through the church-yard, one night, something, which he did not see, caught hold of him by the throat.

A number of witnesss were then called to the prisoner's character, which they described as mild and gentle in the extreme.

One of these witnesses said he had known the prisoner for fifteen years ; and, during that period, his life had been marked by singular acts of humanity and benevolence.

The Lord Chief Baron then proceeded to address the jury. His lordship observed, that nothing which had been stated, or had appeared in this case, could possibly change the nature of the offence from murder. Although malice was necessary to make out the crime of murder, yet it was not necessary, according to law, to prove that the prisoner had known the deceased, or had cherished any malice, or, as was vulgarly called, spite against him. If a man should fire into the hall, where he was now sitting,

ting, and kill any body at random, such a deed was murder. On the same principle, if a person was killed by design, without any authority, but from a supposition that the person ought to be killed, such an act was also murder, unless the killing was accidental.

If a man went out armed on the highway, intending to shoot robbers, and should decide in his own mind that an individual whom he might see was a robber, and should kill the man who actually was not a robber, such an act would be held as murder.

However disgusted the jury might feel in their own minds with the abominable person guilty of the misdemeanour of terrifying the neighbourhood, still the prisoner had no right to construe such misdemeanour into a capital offence, or to conclude that a man dressed in white was a ghost. It was his own opinion, and was confirmed by those of his learned brethren on the bench, that, if the facts stated in evidence were credible, the prisoner had committed murder. In this case there was a deliberate carrying out a loaded gun, which the prisoner concluded he was entitled to fire, but which he really was not ; and he did fire it with a rashness which the law does not excuse. In all the circumstances of the case, no man is allowed to kill another rashly.

His lordship here recapitulated the evidence, and commented on the defence made by the prisoner, which he remarked was singular. The prisoner had gone out persuaded that he was to meet a man, and yet, when he did encounter him, he was so terrified as to be unconscious of what he did.

The prisoner had received an excellent character ; and here his lordship explained the reason why no witness but one could speak to his character farther than two years. The prisoner was an excise-officer, and, as such, liable to be removed and shifted from one situation to another, so that it was a great chance if he remained long in one place.

His lordship was afraid that his good character could not avail, in point of law, in that place, whatever effect it might have in another quarter, which did not become him to conjecture,

The jury retired for above an hour, and returned a verdict "Guilty of Manslaughter."

On hearing this verdict, it was stated by the bench that such a judgment could not be received in this case ; for it ought either to be a verdict of *murder*, or of *acquittal*. If the jury believed the facts, there was no extenuation that could be admitted ; for, supposing that the unfortunate man was the individual really meant to have been shot, the prisoner would have been guilty of murder. Even with respect to civil processes, if an officer of justice uses a deadly weapon, it is murder, if he occasions death by it, even although he had a right to apprehend the person he had so killed.

Mr. Justice Rooke.—"The Court have no hesitation whatever, with regard to the law, and, therefore, the verdict must be—"Guilty of Murder," or "A total acquittal from want of evidence."

Mr. Justice Lawrence.—"You have heard the opinion of the whole Court is settled as to the law on this point: it is therefore unnecessary for me to state mine in particular. I perfectly agree with the learned judge, who stated the law in so clear and able a manner. If an officer kills a person whom he had a right to apprehend, upon suspicion of felony, he is guilty of murder, except in particular cases. Now this man was not even attempting to run away, supposing it had been the very person who was guilty of the misdemeanour ; there was, therefore, no excuse for killing him. But though it had been the person who was alarming the neighbourhood, the prisoner had no right to kill him, even if he should attempt an escape, for the crime is only a misdemeanour. Upon every point of view, this case is, in the eye of the law, a murder, if it be proved by the facts. Whether it has or not is for you to determine, and return your verdict accordingly. The law has been thus stated by Justice Foster, and all the most eminent judges."

Recorder.—"I perfectly agree with the learned judges who have spoken. Gentlemen, consider your verdict again."

The jury then turned round, and, after a short consultation, returned their verdict "Guilty."

Lord

Lord Chief Baron.—“ The case, gentlemen, shall be reported to his Majesty immediately.”

The Recorder then passed sentence of death on the prisoner in the usual form ; which was, that he should be executed on Monday next, and his body given to the surgeons to be dissected.

The prisoner, who was dressed in a suit of black clothes, was then twenty-nine years of age, a short but well-made man, with dark hair and eyebrows ; and the pallid hue of his countenance, during the whole trial, together with the signs of contrition which he exhibited, commanded the sympathy of every spectator.

Several of the prisoner's relations were present, and apparently in great distress.

The Sessions-house was crowded in every part by nine o'clock ; and the yard was filled with an anxious multitude, all making inquiry, and interested in the fate of the prisoner ; who, affected by shame and remorse, was now and then so seriously agitated, that he could with difficulty support himself. When called upon for his defence, his voice faltered, insomuch that it was not without a considerable effort he could articulate a word. On the retiring of the jury to reflect on his case, and the return of the verdict, he betrayed such apprehensions of real danger, as to deprive him of the power of sustaining himself without the friendly aid of a by-stander.

When the jury returned, he made a sort of desperate effort—stood up, and endeavoured to attend to the verdict given. When the dreadful word “ Guilty ! ” was pronounced, he sunk into a state of stupefaction exceeding despair. He at last retired, supported by the servants of Mr. Kirby.

The Lord Chief Baron having told the jury, after they had given their verdict, that he would immediately report the case to his Majesty, was so speedy in this humane office, that a “ respite during pleasure ” arrived at the Old Bailey before seven o'clock, and on the 25th he received a pardon, on condition of being imprisoned one year.

**GEORGE KENNEDY, MARTIN MOODY, AND
RICHARD BARTON,**

(Soldiers of the Foot Guards,)

CONVICTED OF A ROBBERY, ATTENDED WITH CIRCUMSTANCES OF
CRUELTY.

THESE men, to the disgrace of the character of the soldier, were indicted for assaulting and dangerously wounding, on the 14th of November, 1804, on the King's highway, between Sandwich and Deal, George John Piercy Leith, and feloniously robbing him of a quantity of bank-notes, a silver watch, and some money.

Mr. Leith deposed that he lived at Walmer, and on the 14th of November he had been at Sandwich market: in the evening he was returning home to his house, which was about six miles from Sandwich. It was a fine evening, and the moon shone very bright. When he came to Shouldham Downs, where the road turns off towards Fowlney chalk-pit, he observed three soldiers walking before him; one was in a red jacket faced with blue, the uniform of the guards; and the other two had foraging dresses. When he came up with them he received a violent blow on the left cheek, which knocked out one of his teeth, and swelled his eye so as to blind him. At the same instant, the man who gave the blow called out to the other in red, "Comrade, stop him." His horse started out of the road, and went a little way over the ploughed ground, but the bridle was seized by the man in a round frock. One of them said, "Your money;" another said, "Yes, and soon." Whether he received another blow at this instant he could not tell, or whether he was pulled off; but he fell from his horse, which ran away. They left him for a moment as he lay upon the ground; but, seeing them approach him again, he put his hand in his pocket, and gave them the bag, containing the notes and money. One of them, with great dexterity, put his finger into his fob, and hooked out his watch, which he wore without a chain. They then all ran away. The prosecutor got up, and saw the moon shining very bright on the turnpike-road: he soon after
met

met James Wyburn, and, with his assistance, got home. He would not swear to the persons of any of the prisoners, but he thought that Barton was the man in red, and Kennedy the one who stood at the head of his horse. He had that day at Sandwich received sixteen five-guinea and sixteen one-guinea notes.

Serjeant John Rutter, of the third battalion of the first regiment of guards, deposed that Barton and Moody belonged to the same company as himself, and Kennedy to the same regiment. On the Thursday, the fifteenth of November, as the witness was visiting the quarters of the married men who lived out of the Barracks, he saw Moody come into a public house in Deal. Moody asked another soldier if he would drink, and offered to treat him with half a pint of gin if he would go out with him. The serjeant said he had seen the hand-bills that morning, which gave an account of the robbery, and he knew that Moody had no money the day before, because the witness had lent him a shilling. Finding that he was apparently flush of money, it raised his suspicion : he, however, said nothing, but went home to the barracks. Barton had been sent to the guard-house that evening, for coming drunk to the parade ; and, about eight o'clock, Moody came in, and asked, " If all was well ? " The witness supposed he meant to ask whether he was home in time, and answered, " Yes. " He then inquired why Barton was in custody, and was told for being drunk at parade. He next asked the witness if he had any objection to let a comrade sing a song as they were undressing ; the serjeant replied, that as it was not nine he had no objection to the song. He watched Moody as he was undressing, and observed him to take the jacket from under the head of his bed-fellow, who was asleep, and substitute his own, putting Austin's, the other man's, under his own head. The witness was obliged then to leave them to attend the roll-call of non-commissioned officers. He then concerted with Serjeant Young, and it was agreed that the latter should come into Moody's room, and say, that he had orders to search all men in liquor. In consequence of this plan, Serjeant Young came in shortly after, and searched Moody's bed : he took his jacket from under Austin's head, and between

tween the cloth and the lining they found the watch, and three one-guinea notes, answering the description of the hand-bill.

Serjeant Aylesbury deposed that Barton was committed to custody that day for being drunk at parade. Moody came in that day about four, and he observed that he had some private talk along with Barton. At about a quarter before nine the witness received orders to search Barton, which he did, and between the lining and cloth of his jacket-sleeves he found several bank-notes, all of which corresponded in number and value with those described in the hand-bills, advertising the robbery. He delivered them all over to Serjeant-major Colquhoun.

The serjeant-major was called, who corroborated the testimony of the last witness, and deposed that he delivered them over to the constable in the presence of the magistrate.

Thomas Simmons, a victualler at Walmer, deposed, that the morning after the three prisoners were taken into custody, he went to the guard-room about half past seven, to carry the serjeants on guard some beer. Moody complained that he was uncomfortable, and begged the serjeant to take his hand-cuffs off, for a little while, that he might tighten himself up. The serjeant said he could not do that, but if he would sit upon the table he would button his gaiters and jacket for him. He did so ; and as he was buttoning his jacket about the breast, he said, "Moody, you have no collar on." Moody replied, "Never mind, we shall soon have a hempen collar that will fit us all." Barton said, "If you have one, I shall have one too, for I stopped his horse." Kennedy joined, and said, "But it was I who demanded his money ; and as he did not give it, I brought him down with a topper of my bludgeon : I thought the horse had stamped upon his head when he was down."* They then said, that after he was down, they robbed him of a handful of notes, his watch, a half-guinea, and a crown-piece. Barton said to Kennedy,

* This confession somewhat savours of that of the three wicked fellow crafts in Masonic history, Jubela, Jabels, and Jubelum ; who murdered their grand master Hiram Abiff, the widow's son, because he would not disclose the master mason's sign and word before they had become entitled to the sublime parts of that most ancient order.

"I am



S.W. MITCHELL.

“I am sorry you beat him : when we went out I ordered you to rob, but not to murder.” They then described what they had severally done after the robbery. They had all made the best of their way to the Barracks, passing Deal-castle, and they buried the notes that night under a large stone between the Castle and the Beach. Moody and Barton said, that they went home to bed. Kennedy said he went to the Canteen, where he got a roll, a herring, and a pint of beer to refresh himself.

Serjeants Aylesbury and Young both corroborated this account of the last witness, and said the prisoners described what they had done in a kind of bravado manner.

William Wyburn, the constable, produced the notes and watch, which was sworn to by Mr. Leith ; and he added, that he had also lost half-a-guinea and a crown-piece, as stated by the prisoners, although they were not stated in the indictment.

Mr. Hodgson, a partner in the Sandwich bank, examined the notes, and, comparing them with his book, deposed, that they were all paid by him to Mr. Leith, at Sandwich, on the day of the robbery.

The jury found all the prisoners guilty.

Barton, who was a very handsome man, pleaded much with the judge for his life : and from it having appeared that he was the least cruel of the three he received a respite, and was sent to serve his country the remainder of his life in some distant settlement, but Kennedy and Moody were executed.

SAMUEL WILD MITCHELL,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, JANUARY 14, 1805, FOR THE MURDER
OF HIS INFANT DAUGHTER.

IN pity to the memory of this wretched old man, we are inclined to hope that a sudden fit of frenzy alone hurried him to the commission of this most unnatural, horrid, and cruel murder.

Samuel Mitchell was a weaver ; and the very day before he had murdered his daughter, a separation had taken place between him and his wife, and the child, Sally, went

that night to the lodgings which her mother had taken for herself. On the next morning the little innocent returned, and was employed in quilling, (i. e. putting silk on a shuttle for her father to weave with,) when the inhuman parent took a razor, and cut the child's throat from one ear to the other: the wound was four inches in length, and two inches in depth. He then left the house, confessed his guilt to an acquaintance, and then wandered about the streets till evening, when he found his way to his son-in-law's house, and was there apprehended. The officers went to his room, where the razor was found open, and covered with blood, within four or five feet of the unfortunate deceased: and, at the time the child was found, the blood was actually warm. After this had taken place, and the coroner had done what his duty required him to do, the prisoner was taken before a magistrate; and, after every merciful warning from the magistrate, he voluntarily chose to depose, and did confess the whole of this horrid transaction.

His trial came on at the Sessions-house, in the Old-Bailey, Jan. 12, 1805, before Sir Archibald Macdonald, Knight, Lord Chief Baron of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer. The appearance of the prisoner, when brought to the bar, was squalid and wretched in the extreme: his hair was grey, and his head was covered with an old miserable night-cap.

William Godby deposed that he had been married to the daughter of the prisoner for more than eight years; that the prisoner lived, on the 18th of December, 1804, in Wheeler-street, almost opposite Flower-de-luce court, Spitalfields, in the parish of Christ-church; that the prisoner was a married man; that he lodged in the top room of the house; his wife, and his child Sally, the deceased, had lived with him, but he and his wife had been separated the day before this horrid transaction. The prisoner at the bar was a weaver, and Sally, the deceased, used to be employed in winding quills for her father. He saw the prisoner at nine o'clock in the morning of this transaction, and did not see him again on that day, till about ten o'clock at night: he saw the prisoner at the house where he, the witness, lodged, and he told him
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he should not come into his room. About half-past twelve on the same day, after he had been to the warehouse with his work, he went up to see him; and, when he came into his room, he saw the child, Sally, lying in her blood, but did not notice the wound, he was so alarmed: he went down to the room under the prisoner's, and told Mrs. Nicholls, who lived in that room; he then went away: he had some of his master's property about him, and that he carried home: he returned a second time, and went into the room again, and saw Mr. Kennedy, the officer, there.

Mrs. Nicholls said, that she lived in the room immediately under the prisoner; that she was at home on the 18th of December, and said that the prisoner's wife had been with him that morning; that she had a light of her (to light his fire) before eleven o'clock; and that she heard Sally, the deceased, go up stairs, on her return from Spitalfields' charity-school, about twelve o'clock; she knew it was the little girl by the step, and that when she got into her father's room, she heard the quill-wheel go, and she heard the prisoner's loom make a noise, which it usually did when he was weaving; shortly after she heard a woman go down stairs, and after that she heard a man's foot, but did not see either of them; that the prisoner had previously called out to her, a little before twelve, to know what o'clock it was; and that Godby, the former witness, came to her in about half an hour after she heard the quill-wheel go, and the noise of the prisoner's loom when he was weaving; that she went up with him, and saw Sally, the deceased, lying in her gore of blood; that she saw nothing of the wound, was afraid of going into the room, and called out to the landlord, "murder!" upon which he came up.*

William

* On Saturday, March 21, 1801, at the Lancaster assizes, James Massey was convicted for the murder of his wife; the principal evidence against him was his daughter-in-law, a little girl about ten years of age, who was in company with the mother at the time the violence was committed, and very narrowly escaped, he having attempted to throw her into the mill-dam. She very minutely detailed the brutality of his conduct, which was fully corroborated by the surgeon.

This unhappy wretch, who was executed on Monday, March 30, pursuant

William Byron deposed that he was, on the 18th of December, the landlord of the house, No. 24, Wheeler-street, but had since removed, and that the prisoner, at that time, lodged in the garret. That, on the alarm of murder, he went up stairs, and took the child by the hand; then, putting his feet across the body, he lifted her up by the waist, when her head fell back, and the gash appeared to him; he then gave the alarm, that her throat was cut, and desired them to go for a surgeon, and for her father, who he supposed was at the Elder-tree public-house, just by: he then looked round the room, to see if he could find any instrument, but could not. He observed the quill-wheel was bloody, and the track of blood about the room: her cap was bloody, lying in the room, and she was all over blood, and so was he.

Edward Dellafour, a journeyman broad-silk weaver, saw the prisoner on the 18th, between the hours of twelve and one, at his apartments, No. 26, Skinner-street, Shoreditch. He was at work, and the prisoner knocked at his door, upon which he let him in. The prisoner asked him to go down stairs with him, as he had something particular to communicate. He refused to leave his work, unless he would tell him his business; the prisoner then said, something had happened that day, which never had happened before, and that he should go to Newgate. Seeing him in that violent perturbation of mind, he reluctantly left his work; the prisoner having gone down stairs; and, anxious to know the cause of it, he followed, and found him at the street-door; they went about 50 yards from the witness's door; the prisoner then, with a countenance full of grief, turned round to him and said, "Ned, I shall die!" The witness asked him what had happened, or what was the matter with him;

suant to his sentence, was at first ordered for dissection, but having petitioned the Judge to be buried between his two wives (to both of whom, it is said, he behaved with great cruelty), his lordship ordered him to be hung in chains, as near the place where the murder was committed as might be convenient; and he was accordingly suspended on Congeston Heath.

At the place of execution he confessed his offences, which proceeded from the violence of passion, as he professed to love the deceased with tenderness.

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the prisoner said directly to him, "I have killed my Sally." The witness asked him if the child was dead; the prisoner said, "Yes, I have cut her head half off." It was a very severe morning, and the prisoner was shivering with cold; the prisoner desired the witness to go with him into a public-house, that he might warm himself, and have something to drink; they went into the first public-house they came to, which was the Cock and Magpie, in Worship-street, and had a pot of beer; the prisoner called for it, and a pipe of tobacco. There were three men and a woman there, entire strangers to the witness. The prisoner then said to the witness in the tap-room, "Sit down, I have something to say to you." Seeing the strangers in the room, the witness thought it imprudent to speak before them, and desired the prisoner not to say it there; in about a quarter of an hour they went out. The witness asked the prisoner where he was going, and what he meant to do with himself. He said he was going to Shadwell to see two friends of his who were rope-makers, who would, when he was in prison, allow him a shilling or two; he then asked when the sessions would begin—the witness told him; he said, he would give himself up to justice, and suffer, with this remark, "it would make no odds to him if they cut him in a thousand pieces, for that when he went hundreds would go at the same minute." The witness told him he should not have killed his child. The prisoner looked him in the face, and said, "I know that—do not you retort on me now it is done." The witness accompanied him as far as Whitechapel church, then shook him by the hand, and saw him no more till he saw him at the office; the witness said, the magistrate sent for him, and he gave the same account at that time as he now gave. When in the public-house with him, he observed a small quantity of blood on one of his hands.

Thomas Grice, a watchman of Bethnal-green, said that two men came to their watch-house, and gave information that the prisoner was in Hare-street, at his daughter's, and there the witness apprehended him, and took him to Bethnal-green watch-house, and then went and delivered him up to the officer of the Spitalfields' watch-house;

house; as soon as he saw the prisoner, the prisoner said, he was the man that was guilty of the murder, and resigned himself up.

James Kennedy, an officer of Worship-street, received information of the murder about one o'clock in the afternoon, and went with Bishop into the prisoner's room, and there saw the deceased lying with her head towards the door, with no cap on, and her throat cut quite through the windpipe; she had done bleeding when the witness saw her, but the blood lying on the floor was warm. On the block of the quill-wheel there was a quantity of blood, and a track of blood from the wheel to where the body lay. Near the quill-wheel there was a low stool, and at the side of it he found a razor open. It was covered with fresh blood at that time. [This he produced in court, and a cap of the deceased, stained with blood, that had fallen from her head.] He, seeing there was no prospect of restoring life, with the assistance of Bishop, put the people out of the room. About twelve at night they received information that he was in Spital-fields' watch-house. Armstrong and he went there to satisfy themselves, and saw the prisoner sitting by the watch-house fire. He turned his head round, and saw the witness. He said, "Kennedy, I have given you much trouble to-day in searching after me." Armstrong said to him, "What do you mean by that? Is your name Mitchell?" He said it was. Armstrong again asked him, did he know he was charged with murdering his own daughter; and said, he had found a cap and a razor in his room. The prisoner then answered, With that razor he had often shaved himself, and with that razor he committed the horrid deed.

Joseph Moser, Esq. the magistrate of Worship-street office, stated that the prisoner was brought before him to be examined on Wednesday, the 19th of December: he took down the whole confession of the prisoner in writing, telling him the consequences in every point of view, and the use that would be made of it after he had signed it: he repeated it over to him several times, said it was true what he had signed, and signed it in the magistrate's presence.

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The prisoner's examination, being now read in court, was as follows:

“ Public Office, Worship-street.

“ The voluntary confession of Samuel Mitchell, weaver, for the wilful murder of his child, aged nine years, taken by Joseph Moser, Esq. December 19, 1804.

“ I, Samuel Wild Mitchell, weaver, late of the parish of Christ-church, Middlesex, now standing at the bar of the public office, Worship-street, being fully apprized of the nature of my situation by the magistrate, and through him made perfectly sensible of the nature of this acknowledgment, do make this free and unbiassed confession, which is taken by my own desire :—That I had a daughter named Sally, and my wife had a daughter named Elizabeth, who at one time did live with me, but whom I afterwards took to my apartment, where I instructed her in the art of weaving, and we lived all altogether : this said daughter of my wife's caused some uneasiness, as I thought ; and I thought my wife was more indulgent to her faults, and favoured her more than she ought, which was the reason of our separation on the 17th of December last ; my wife also took with her Sarah Mitchell, whom I loved with the most ardent affection, which vexed me a great deal, as I saw there would be a continual dispute. I could not bear the little girl coming to see me, as coming on a visit. I resolved that neither my wife nor me should possess her. I seized the moment of the mother going away : the child was sitting by the fire, winding quills. I took the razor from the drawer ; my affection made me almost lay it down again ; but my resolution overcame that. I turned round, and cut her throat. I was too resolute to make a faint attempt ; the child was dead in a moment ; she neither made noise nor resistance. When I had done the deed, the child fell. As I went out, I saw her blood ; then I ran down stairs. After this act was done to my child, Sarah Mitchell, I went to a man named Bell, where I had lived, and left word for him to run and secure my master's work ; then I went to Mr. Dellafour, and my friends at Wapping.
This

“ This acknowledgment is free, and made by my own desire.

Signed
Dec. 19, 1814.

“ SAMUEL WILD MITCHELL.
JOSEPH MOSER.”

The prisoner having been now called on for his defence, the wretched man addressed the court and jury in a manner above his rank or appearance. His defence was nearly as follows :

“ *My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury.*

“ I stand in this place to-day, an awful spectacle of guilt and disgrace; but I will endeavour to be as collected in my reason as possible, though at certain times and seasons I am particularly under heavy pressure of mind, which my wife well knows, and was well aware of: that I have committed the horrid deed laid to my charge I have no wish to deny, any more than I have to avoid the dreadful punishment that awaits my guilt; to that I am resigned; nor was it my wish from the unfortunate moment of my crime to evade justice; but that I committed the deed maliciously against my poor child, who was the victim of my fatal passion, I solemnly deny. Malice I had none. I declare in the presence of God, before whom I stand and make this declaration, and before whose awful tribunal I must shortly appear, instead of bearing to her malice, I loved her most tenderly. I had kind love to the child, and wished her not to be from me; and to that love, strange and perverse as it may seem, is owing chiefly the sad cause that brings me here this day. I am married to a second wife, by whom this child was my only daughter: we had long known each other before our marriage, when I was in better days, and when she and I were the wife and husband of others. I thought I could be happy with her; but I found her temper incompatible with my happiness or her own. I found the friends and the family with which she was connected thought her marriage to me degrading to her. Disputes and controversy, for ten years, frequently took place between us; in which, unhappily, both were in fault, too much so; those

those disputes were often carried to a pitch of fury (and may this sad spectacle that I now stand be a warning to others, if they meet with double families, to have more love to their duty); and what tended still more to exasperate me and aggravate our dissensions was, that those she called her friends always sided with her in every thing, whether right or wrong; and many of them, I am sorry to say, who were strenuous professors of religious principles, were always more ready to lend a hand to the creating of mischief, than to the promotion of charity and peace:—may the Lord forgive them and take me to himself. Our disputes at last ended in a mutual agreement to separate, and the child I so tenderly loved was to go with her mother: this my unhappy temper and feeling could not bear, which led me to the fatal resolution that neither she nor I should have the child, by committing the horrid deed, by putting an end to her life in the manner I have done! I pray God Almighty to forgive me, and to direct you in your decision upon me this day; and though here I stand an object of sin and misery, yet I hope my unhappy fate will prove an awful example to those who form second marriages, with children on both sides, against giving way to intemperate disputes, that may lead them, as they have done me, to acts of desperation and vengeance, beyond the control of reason or reflection. If my wife was present, she could vouch and prove that it was impossible I could ever have deliberately executed such an act. She could testify that my disposition was not cruel; and that when I have been the most resolute to good purposes, unfortunately, under agitations of mind, or provocations of temper, such has been my weakness, I am not always the same man; and, under such circumstances, I have very frequently been led into excesses of frenzy, which, in cool moments, have astonished me. Once in particular, urged by distress, when I had no work, I applied for relief at my parish work-house. I had come too late in the day, when, wound up by disappointment to madness, I broke as many windows as cost the parish four pounds for the repair; and yet the parish-officers, though they might have punished me, did not, knowing that my act was the result of a mind

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deranged.—May the Lord forgive me, and take me to himself! I must die a spectacle of sin and horror!”

The learned judge observed to the jury, “That the fact of a person’s being overcome by any sudden paroxysm of passion to commit a deed of so flagitious a nature operated as no justification of the crime. If God afflicted any man with a temporary or occasional want of reason, that was a different question. There, from the mere occasional suspension of the reasoning faculties, the crime might have been committed; but such could by no means be compared to the case where the dereliction of the reasoning faculties had been occasioned, either by the contemplation of a circumstance, by which alone the mind was affected, or by which, after its completion, the mind could be supposed capable of being agitated. Here a strange mixture of affection was discernible amidst the cruelty which had prompted the perpetration of the deed; but he could see nothing in the case to induce him to point out to the jury any distinction between this case and the various other cases of a similar kind which presented themselves.”

After the Lord Chief Baron had made his remarks, the prisoner requested permission to speak again, which was granted immediately by the court.

“There is one single point I have to say, which my wife could attest, if she was here, as she was well acquainted with my misery, as well as my mother’s, who would frequently go into the same way: she was a very sensible woman; she would frequently ask me to cut her hair, for, unless her hair was kept cut in a very particular close manner, her weakness was upon her. So it has been with me.”

The jury having found him guilty, the prisoner was asked, what he had to say for himself, why sentence of death should not be passed according to law? The prisoner distinctly replied, “I have nothing to say.”

The awful sentence, that he was to be hanged the succeeding Monday, and his body afterwards dissected and anatomized, was immediately pronounced by the Recorder; which the prisoner heard without any visible emotion. The court was crowded in every part, and particularly

cularly with ladies ; and not only the women, but even the jury, the counsel, and nearly all present, were melted into tears. During the whole trial the prisoner appeared calm, but not insensible. He was very attentive to the evidence, and declined asking any questions of the witnesses. He appeared frequently to utter a low ejaculation:

On the morning after his trial, this unhappy man expressed a desire to see his wife, that they might exchange mutual forgiveness. The day following (Sunday), she came to visit him in Newgate, but so ill, that she was obliged to be brought in a hackney-coach, supported between two friends. As soon as the distressing interview was over, he applied himself devoutly to prayer, in which he continued nearly the whole of the day. On that day he was extremely solicitous to obtain Dr. Ford's promise to publish to the world that he died in the faith of the church of England ; and he was the more anxious it should be done, as it had been generally understood that he belonged to the sect denominated Methodists. At half-past six o'clock, Mitchell's cell was unlocked, and the Ordinary attended him to the chapel to prayers ; which being concluded, he returned to the press-yard, and there walked for some time, holding two friends by the arms ; meanwhile his mind was occupied with his unhappy situation : he begged of all around him to pray with him. He first put up a prayer to Heaven for his own soul ; next invoked a blessing on his wife, his two daughters by a former marriage, his son and daughter-in-law, in the most pathetic manner. The unhappy man blessed the memory of his murdered child, and trusted the sacrifice he was about to make would, in some degree, expiate his crime in Heaven, which he did not despair to see. Then, in language which would have done credit to the pulpit or the bar, he besought God to grant His Majesty health and long life ; to endue his ministers with wisdom, that it might be applied to the happiness and prosperity of his country, which, notwithstanding the convulsions by which it was surrounded, he prayed might endure under its present form of government till time shall be no more. He then expressed his gratitude to

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the magistrates, and to Mr. Newman, the keeper of the prison, for his humane consideration of him. He expressed himself most gratefully to Dr. Ford, for the consolation he had afforded him by his admonition and counsel, and repeatedly acknowledged, that he felt more comfort in the prospect of death, than he should in life, were a reprieve offered him.

His last petition was to the Sheriffs, to request that, after the surgeons had practised upon his body, his mangled remains might be given to his daughter, for burial; which request the Sheriffs promised should be complied with.

On Monday morning, January the 14th, at a very early hour, every avenue leading to the Old Bailey was crowded by persons of various descriptions, all eager and anxious to witness the last moments of this unhappy man; indeed a greater crowd was seldom seen on any similar occasion; the houses then erecting in front of Green-arbour-court, St. Sepulchre's church, the pump, and the various lamp-irons, were all filled with the anxious multitude.

About five minutes past eight o'clock the wretched delinquent came out of Newgate. His demeanour was perfectly calm, and he appeared most completely resigned to his fate. He was attended by the ordinary, who stood before him until the drop fell.

Mitchell seemed to attend with much earnestness and fervour to the admonitions of the clergyman, and he was seen to clasp his hands together the instant the rope was fixed. He was not allowed to remain long on the scaffold, as he was tied up almost on the instant after he came up. After the drop fell, he exhibited several times the appearance of feeling great pain, as he swung round twice, which was occasioned by the violence of the convulsive struggles he sustained.

His body was, after hanging the usual time, cut down, and taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for dissection.

RICHARD HAYWOOD,

EXECUTED ALONG WITH JOHN TENNANT, BEFORE NEWGATE, APRIL 30,
1805, FOR ROBBERY; WITH PARTICULARS RESPECTING BOTH THESE
DARING CULPRITS.

IN relating the shocking depravity of Avershaw, we hoped that we had come to the very acme of turpitude; but here we find a more miserable wretch, threatening even to outdo, in blasphemy, his wicked prototype.

Richard Haywood, alias Reginald Harwood, was indicted for having stolen two bolsters and two pillows, value ten shillings, the property of Richard Crabtree; and for cutting, with a certain sharp instrument, Benjamin Chantry, in order to prevent his lawful apprehension of him for the said felony.

Miss Jenkins, cousin to Mrs. Crabtree, deposed, that on Saturday evening, October 20, 1804, in consequence of some suspicions, which she and Mrs. Wilson had, they sat watching in Mr. Williamson's house, which was opposite to Mr. Crabtree's, No. 11, Thayer-street, Manchester-square. They saw two men go into Mr. Crabtree's house with a key. Hereupon Mrs. Wilson went down stairs, and the witness observed her cross over, and knock at Mr. Crabtree's door. She saw the door open, but nothing else.

Mr. Williamson said, that he followed Mrs. Wilson, and was, when she knocked at Mr. Crabtree's door, close to the step of it. He saw two men come out of the house: one ran to the left, who, he believed, made his escape; the other (the prisoner at the bar) made a blow at Mrs. Wilson, and ran to the right. The witness cried, Stop thief! and he had not got above twenty yards before he was stopped by a gentleman: the prisoner fell down in the middle of the street, but got away from the gentleman. The witness never lost sight of him, till he was stopped by several people in Mary-le-bone-lane.

Henry Holford, a merchant, in Crutched-friars, said, that as he was passing through Thayer-street, Manchester-square, he saw the prisoner coming out of the house,
No.

No. 11, and making a violent blow at a lady: he immediately ran towards Hind-street, and came so close to the witness that he seized him. He struggled, and made a blow at the witness's head, which he avoided, and the prisoner fell. The witness saw something in his hand, which he afterwards understood to be an iron crow.—The witness returned the blow, and the prisoner fell. He got up again, and turned, and escaped for a moment. The witness pursued him down two small streets, and kept sight of him till he saw Chantry at the door of his own house. The witness called out to him. “Stop thief!” Chantry laid hold of him immediately. The witness told Chantry to take care, for he had an iron crow in his hand. Chantry looked round, and in a few moments afterwards the prisoner lifted up his hand, and made a violent blow at him with the iron. He was then taken to the watch-house, and the iron crow was delivered to the officer.

After conviction, he behaved with shocking depravity. He never attempted to deny his guilt; but, on the contrary, seemed to exult in it, and often regretted he had not done a deed more deserving of death. It was his constant boast, that he would, on the scaffold, surpass the notorious Avershaw, in evincing his contempt of death; and he constantly endeavoured to instil into the mind of his fellow-sufferer those diabolical principles which he had imbibed himself.

His fellow-sufferer was JOHN TENNANT, who had been ordered for execution along with Haywood. Tennant had lived as footman with Robert Shaw, Esq. a Solicitor, in New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, but inflated with the ambition of keeping a public-house, quitted his service, and obtained the command of a tap in Little Suffolk-street, behind the King's Bench Prison. Finding his golden prospects in a public-house, in a great measure, delusive, he determined on robbing his late master, Mr. Shaw, and, being well acquainted with the place, broke open his money drawers, and stole to the amount of more than five thousand pounds in cash, bank-notes, and other property! With such a prize, such a
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man could not long remain unsuspected ; and he was soon detected in passing some of the stolen notes, and convicted of the robbery. Mr. Shaw recovered the greatest part of his property ; indeed, the robber, finding no hopes of evading his impending fate, voluntarily returned bills of exchange, and notes to the amount of 500*l.* and upwards, which was not charged in the indictment ; on which account the prosecutor recommended him to mercy ; but servants basely betraying their trust, or taking advantage of confidence once reposed in them, are not objects of mercy. The relentless Haywood corrupted the mind of Tennant, and, in the condemned cells, stimulated him to follow his horrid example. They uttered the most blasphemous expressions, and sung lewd songs the whole time they ought to have employed in making their peace with offended Heaven.

When the keeper went to warn them of their approaching execution, they behaved in so determined and riotous a manner, that it was necessary to secure them with irons to the floor. Haywood, who was supposed to have procured a knife from his wife, while she was permitted to see him, rushed upon the keeper, during the altercation, and would have stabbed him with it, if he had not left the cell. They uttered the most horrid imprecations ; and, after declaring in cant terms that they would *die game*, threatened to murder the Ordinary if he attempted to visit them. Their behaviour, in other respects, was so abandoned, that the necessary attendants were deterred from further interference, and left them to the dreadful fate which awaited them.

When the time for quitting the court-yard arrived, Haywood called to a friend, who was present, to deliver him a bundle he had in his hand, out of which he took an old jacket, and a pair of old shoes, and put them on. “ Thus,” says he, “ will I defeat the prophecies of my enemies : they have often said I would die in my coat and shoes, and I am determined to die in neither.”— Being told it was time to be conducted to the scaffold, he cheerfully attended the summons, having first eaten some bread and cheese, and drank a quantity of coffee. Before,

fore, however, he departed, he called out in a loud voice to the prisoners, who were looking through the upper windows at him, "Farewell, my lads; I am just going off: God bless you."—"We are sorry for you," replied the prisoners. "I want none of your pity," rejoined Haywood; "keep your snivelling till it be your own turn." Immediately on his arrival upon the scaffold, which he ran upon with great agility, in a loud laugh, he gave the mob three cheers, introducing each with a "Hip, ho!" While the cord was preparing, he continued hallooing to the mob, "How are you? Well here goes." It was found necessary before the usual time to put the cap over his eyes, besides a silk handkerchief, by way of bandage, that his attention might be entirely abstracted from the spectators.

At the suggestion of Mr. Holdsworth, however, Tennant made some alteration in his conduct. This officer finding his advice attended to in this instance, entreated him no longer to follow the evil counsel of Haywood, but to employ the few moments he had left in a Christian-like manner. Tennant shed tears, shewed some contrition, and suffered the Ordinary to attend him to the scaffold. Dr. Ford continued in prayer with him; and though he did not join with, yet he listened to him attentively.—He came on the platform with great resolution, but did not then follow the daring and abandoned example of his companion: he was cleanly dressed in a brown coat, and buck-skin breeches, and observed a propriety of conduct suitable to the awfulness of the occasion: he shook hands with Haywood; and just as the noose was placed round his neck, he emphatically exclaimed, "Lord have mercy upon me." Haywood muttered some words in reply, which were not perfectly understood, but were supposed to be said to Tennant by way of reproach. He then gave another halloo, and kicked off his shoes among the spectators, many of whom were deeply affected at the obduracy of his conduct. Soon afterwards the platform dropped.

"O wretched man, thy words recall,
"Turn not religion's milk to gall.

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“ Let not thy mind within thee nurse,
“ An impious rage, a dreadful curse ;
“ Far other is the heavenly plan,
“ Which the Redeemer gave to man,
“ Who bade mankind in peace to live,
“ And e’en our enemies forgive.”

JOHN ROGER TURNER,

EXECUTED AT THE OLD BAILEY, MAY 5, 1805, FOR FORGERY.

THIS malefactor had been clerk to Messrs. Stonard and Ryland, Corn-factors in Mark-lane, for several years, who were in the habit of purchasing stock for their country correspondents. By this means he knew that Mr. Waltham had 10,000*l.* stock in the 3 per cent. reduced. He informed a Mr. H. Engell, that he wanted to sell out 7,000*l.* stock, requesting that Mr. Engell would recommend him a broker, the one that sold for him having run away. He was accordingly recommended to Mr. John Sherrott, a stock-broker, in Ratcliffe Highway, whom he called on, on the 8th of January, 1805, and gave him orders to sell out 7,000*l.* stock. Turner was accompanied by another person, who afterwards proved to be his father-in-law, Mr. Price, a shoe-maker. Mr. Sherrott said he would have the business done the next day. They accordingly went to the 3 per Cent. Reduced Office, and the necessary proceedings for selling out were resorted to. Turner gave Mr. Sherrott a receipt for the value of the 7,000*l.* stock, for which he was to receive a cheque. The receipt was in the usual form, and a blank was left for the attestation of the clerk at the Bank, after the transfer should be completed. Mr. Sherrott informed Turner, that before the transfer could be completed, the clerks must be convinced of his identity. He said, that he knew no person near the 'Change since his late broker had fled, and he therefore requested that Mr. Sherrott would satisfy the clerks on this head. Mr. Sherrott, however, fortunately declined identifying the man, whom he was a stranger to; when it was agreed that he should meet Mr. Sherrott at the Bank, the next day,

day, with a friend, who would identify him. He, however, failed in the appointment; and Sherrott did not see him till half past four that day, when he came to his house, where he said that he had been in search of a Mr. Thomas Rutt, who had purchased stock for him, in order to clear up any doubts; but that he could not see him till the next day. Mr. Sherrott expressed great displeasure at the disappointment; for the stock had rose 2 per cent. and he was obliged to sell the stock at the price agreed for. Being hurt at the thoughts of paying these two pounds out of his own pocket, he was a little warm. During this interview, a Mr. Robinson, corn-chandler, in Ratcliffe Highway, who knew Mr. Turner, came in, and addressed him by name—"How do you do, Mr. Turner?" Turner pretended that he was mistaken in his person and name. When Mr. Robinson said, "Pray, don't you live as clerk to Stonard and Ryland?" Sherrott saw that he was confused; and told him, "As you said that your name was William Waltham, and it is not, I think it my duty to take you into custody:" and accordingly he charged an officer with him.

On Friday, February 22, he was indicted at the Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Le Blanc, for forging, uttering, and publishing, as true, a certain instrument, purporting to be a receipt for the sale of 7,000*l.* of reduced 3 per cent. stock, the property of William Waltham.

During the trial, the above particulars were sworn to, and the receipt read, viz.—

"Reduced 3 per cent. Annuities.

"Received this 9th day of January, 1805, of Joseph Lightfoot, the sum of four thousand and seventy-seven pounds ten shillings, being the consideration for seven thousand pounds stock or share in the capital or joint stock in the 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities, consolidated by Act of Parliament, in the 22d of George II. and 25th of George III. and other subsequent Acts, charged to the sinking funds, transferable at the Bank of England, by me, this day transferred to the said Joseph Lightfoot.

"Witness my hand,

"W. WALTHAM."

The prisoner's counsel asserted, that, as the receipt had



ELIZABETH BARBER.

had not been signed by the witnessing clerk, it could not have the effect of forgery ; but this objection was overruled by the Court, who observed, that this indictment was for forging a receipt—it had nothing to do with a transfer.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1805, this unfortunate culprit suffered the sentence of the law on the scaffold, opposite the Debtor's door, at Newgate. He was a young man of prepossessing appearance and gentlemanly manners, fat and florid, and about thirty-four years of age.—He was dressed in a black coat and waistcoat, white plush breeches, and boots. In place of having his hands tied with a rope, as usual, he produced a new muslin handkerchief, and for his girt, a silk twist, which were substituted. When he mounted the scaffold, the rain fell, almost in torrents, and at his own request he was instantly tied up, and launched into eternity. He left a wife, children, and an aged mother, to bemoan his untimely fate, and an additional example to the ten thousand others of the folly as well as wickedness of attempting to acquire riches by dishonest means.

ELIZABETH BARBER, alias DALY,

EXECUTED ON PENNENDEN HEATH, NEAR MAIDSTONE, MAY 25, 1805,
FOR THE MURDER OF A GREENWICH PENSIONER.

HERE have we another shocking instance of female depravity. When a woman once pollutes the marriage bed, ruin, robbery, and even murder, generally mark her guilty course ; so it certainly was in the case of Elizabeth Barber.

She was born in King-street, Deptford, of honest parents, of the name of Wright ; but this, their child, evinced a wayward turn of mind. She married a honest waterman, named Barber, by whom she bore children.—Barber's good conduct obtained him an excellent situation in the custom-house, while his wife was ruining him by her flagitious conduct. She was soon beyond all con-

troul. She once stabbed a man of the name of Thomas Seerles, for which she was indicted and imprisoned at Maidstone twelve calendar months; this, however, proved no check to her fury, for having formed an intimacy with John Dennis Daly, a poor college-man, at Greenwich, she murdered him on the 14th of October, 1804, by stabbing him in the breast with a knife, for which she was sent to Maidstone gaol.

The first witness who was called on her trial, was Morgan Callaghan, who said, he was a pensioner at Greenwich Hospital, and knew Daly and the prisoner, who lived together as man and wife. On the above-mentioned day, the prisoner and her daughter went out; the witness staid at home with Daly in his room. When the prisoner came back, they had a pint of gin together. He staid with them till a little after eight. While he was with them they had a dispute about two seven-shilling pieces, when she took a case-knife from the mantle-piece, and said, she would have his life, if he did not give the money to her. Daly was at that time sitting in an arm chair by the fire-place. When she took the knife, the witness said, "Good night, I shall not stay here any longer, and went away." She had not at that time laid the knife down.

Ann Ward, the next witness, stated, that she lived in the room under the prisoner's room at Greenwich; she heard a trampling over her head, as though of persons scuffling. This was half an hour before she heard the cry of murder! and she heard Mrs. Daly, the prisoner, say, "I'll do it—I'll do it! I will not put up with it!" In about half an hour afterwards, she heard the prisoner open the door, and cry out "murder!—bloody murder! my husband has stabbed himself, and is dead enough, will nobody come to my assistance!" The witness called the woman who lived underneath in the kitchen, and they both went up stairs with the prisoner. When they got up, they saw Daly sitting in a chair with his head hanging on his left shoulder, the bosom of his shirt was open, and the wound on his breast was washed very clean. The prisoner was all the time smoking her pipe, very unconcernedly; merely observing, that he had stabbed himself.—The witness being frightened, went down stairs; Mrs. Barber,

Barber, the prisoner, followed them down, and continued smoking at the bottom of the stairs.

Ann Broughton deposed, that she knew Daly, and saw the prisoner on the 14th, in the evening, before the college-bell had done ringing. The prisoner said, "In the name of God, Nanny, go up with me, I have done it, I have done it!" The witness replied, "In the name of God! what have you done?" She said, "she had done mischief, and mischief she was bound for." The witness went up stairs with her, and observing her hands all over blood, she asked her, "What have you done?" She kept repeating, "I have done it!" She took the knife, and pointed it against her side, saying, it was that which had done the mischief: she took the knife, and washed it and her hands. The witness sat down, and the prisoner kept walking about the room, but said very little.

A soldier in the West London militia deposed, that as he was standing at a public house door, at Greenwich, near the hospital, about nine in the evening, the prisoner came up to him and said, that her husband had stabbed himself; begging that he would go with her.—He went with her, and meeting two men at the bottom of the stairs, he desired that they would go with him, but they said they would have nothing to do in the matter.—He went up into the prisoner's room, and saw the deceased sitting in a chair, his head hanging on his shoulder. He was dead, but not cold. He then undressed the dead man, and laid him out upon the bed, covering him with his own great coat. Soon afterwards two women came in, one of which was Ann Broughton; they had some beer, and the prisoner all the time kept smoking her pipe. While they were sitting together, one of the women moved a dish with her elbow, and underneath were two seven-shilling pieces. She took them up, and said, "What are these? they do not belong to me." The prisoner immediately got up, and clasped her hands together: she walked to the bed, and looking at the corpse, she exclaimed, "What have I done? Through these pieces you and I have parted." But she did not say, in the recollection of this witness, that she had inflicted the wound; on the contrary, she always said, that the deceased had stabbed

stabbed himself. The other woman, who came in with Broughton, gave the same testimony as to the finding of the two seven-shilling pieces, which she said were wrapped up in a greasy bit of paper. When they were found, the prisoner shewed some emotion, and went to the bedside, and exclaimed over the deceased, "What have I done?"

Mr. Henry Irish, a surgeon at Greenwich, who examined the body, stated, that the wound was inflicted above the sixth rib, the knife passing through the left lobe of the lungs, and penetrating for about an inch the apex of the heart. From the direction of the wound, it was not probable that the deceased inflicted it upon himself, for it would require great strength to effect it, and it was not in the direction that a man was likely to strike himself.

The prisoner, in her defence, persisted that the deceased had stabbed himself, and that he was occasionally slightly affected in his head. The learned judge called Callaghan again to ask as to that assertion, but he said Daly was never violent, unless he was drunk, but that he was not drunk on that day.

The learned judge summed up the evidence of the witnesses with great minuteness and precision; but as the witness, Ann Broughton, had varied considerably in the evidence she gave on the trial, from that which she gave before the coroner, he observed, that he thought her testimony so doubtful, he would not advise the jury to attend to it at all.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the learned judge immediately pronounced the sentence of death.—She was aged fifty-three; and when sentence of death was passed upon her, she begged her body of the judge for her children.

Her dress on the day of execution (which took place, March 25, 1805, on Pennenden-heath) was very decent; but, from the time of her quitting the prison to the fatal drop, she never uttered a sentence. Before leaving the prison, however, she made an ample confession of her guilt: and appeared very penitent, shewing great firmness and resignation to the last moment.

HENRY

HENRY PERFECT,

(*Alias the Rev. Mr. Paul, Rev. Mr. Bennet, &c.*)

A MOST PLAUSIBLE SWINDLER, TRANSPORTED TO BOTANY BAY, IN APRIL,
1805.

OF all the adepts brought forward in our pages, no one was a greater proficient in this most specious kind of villany than Henry Perfect. He had long carried on his depredations on the public without detection, under assumed names and characters, and whose plans for duping the credulous were, perhaps, the most artful that ingenious wickedness could contrive. He was the son of a clergyman in Leicestershire, and formerly a lieutenant in the 69th regiment of foot. He was twice married, and had considerable property with each wife. Having been at length found out in his impositions, he was indicted on the statute of Geo. II. for obtaining money under false pretences from the Earl of Clarendon. His trial, which occupied the whole of the day, and excited universal attention, came on at the Middlesex sessions, Hick's-hall, October 27, 1804. Mr. Gurney, in a very able and eloquent address, expatiated on the enormous guilt of the prisoner, who had personated the various and imaginary characters of the Rev. Mr. Paul, the Rev. Daniel Bennet, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Smith, &c. and who also had the art of varying his hand-writing on every occasion, having kept notes in what hand every original letter had been written, with what kind of wafer or wax it was sealed, &c. He likewise kept his book of accounts as regular as any merchant in London.

The Earl of Clarendon having been at his seat near Wade's Mill, Hertfordshire, in the month of July, 1804, received a letter which was read in evidence. It was signed H. Grant, and stated in substance as follows:—

That the writer having heard from a lady, whose name she was not at liberty to reveal, the most charming character of his lordship for kindness and benevolence, she was induced to lay before him a statement of her

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her distressed circumstances. The supposed lady then detailed her case, which was, that she was a native of Jamaica, of affluent and respectable family; that a young man, a Scotchman, and surgeon's mate to a man of war, was introduced at her father's house, who so far ingratiated himself with her father, that he seriously recommended him to her for her husband. She did not like him, because he was proud, and for ever vaunting of his high family; but as her father's will had always been a law, she consented, on condition that he would live at Jamaica. They were accordingly married, and her father gave him 1000*l*. He, however, soon became discontented with remaining at Jamaica, and continually importuned her to go with him to Scotland; and, as her friends joined in the solicitation, she consented. They had now been six months in England; but her husband always evaded going to Scotland, and left her whenever she spoke upon the subject. In short, he gamed, drank, and committed every excess; and within the last six weeks he died in a rapid decline, leaving her a widow with two children, and hourly expecting to be delivered of a third. A lady had given her such a character of his Lordship, that she was induced to implore his assistance. She was not twenty-three years of age, and never knew want till now; but she was left without a shilling to support herself and miserable children: she owed for her husband's funeral, and the apothecary's bill, for which she was afraid of being arrested. To avoid this, she was going to seek shelter with a poor widow in Essex; and if his Lordship would write to her at the Post-office, at Harlow, if she were brought to bed in the mean while, she would get some safe person to go for his Lordship's letter.

His Lordship's answer to this letter evinced the most benevolent heart. He expressed his readiness to alleviate her distress, but justly observed it ought to be authenticated by something more than the recital of a perfect stranger. He desired to know who the lady was who had recommended the application to him, and assured the writer she need not conceal her, for he considered it was doing him a great kindness, to afford him the means
of

of rendering service to the distressed. On the 14th of July his Lordship received a note nearly as follows :

Mrs. Smith, widow of Captain Smith, begged leave to inform Lord Clarendon, that Mrs. Grant was brought to bed. It was she who recommended Mrs. Grant to Lord Clarendon: while her husband was living, she had frequently been with him on the recruiting service, in Hertfordshire, where she had heard of the benevolent character of his Lordship, and recommended Mrs. Grant to state her case to his Lordship. She added, that Captain Smith, when in Jamaica, had frequently visited Mrs. Grant's father, who was a person of great wealth; that she had herself done more than she could afford, for an amiable and unfortunate young woman. She had no doubt but that, as soon as she could receive an answer from Jamaica, Mrs. Grant's father would send her abundant relief; but till then she might, without the friendship of some one, be totally lost.

In consequence of this last note, his Lordship returned an answer, and inclosed a draft for five guineas, offering at the same time to write to any person at Harlow, who might be of assistance to her, particularly to any medical person. On July the 23d, the supposed Mrs. Grant wrote again to his Lordship, acknowledged the receipt of the five guineas, and stated that she had the offer of a passage home: she wished to see his Lordship, to return her grateful thanks, &c. at the same time she was extremely delicate lest their meeting should be misconstrued by a malignant world, and entreated it might take place a little distance from town. The answer to this letter she begged might be addressed to A. B. C. at George's Coffee-house, to which place she would send for it. His Lordship, at her request, wrote an answer, and appointed the Bell Inn, at Kilburn. Before, however, the arrival of the day of meeting, his Lordship received another letter from Mrs. Grant, stating, that ever since she came to town she had met nothing but trouble. Her last child had died, and she was seized with a milk-fever; that she had twelve shillings left of his Lordship's, and Mrs. Smith's bounty, when she came to town; that she was

afraid of coming further than Whitechapel, lest her creditors might arrest her, where she was at present miserably lodged in only one room: she concluded with a request of the loan of five pounds, to be inclosed in a note addressed to Mr. Paul, to be left at the Saracen's Head Inn, Aldgate. His Lordship, in reply to this note, sent the money requested, and with great humanity condoled on her supposed situation. He then purposed to take her into the country, where she might live quiet, and free of expense, until she heard from her friends. The next letter introduced another actor on the stage. It came from the Rev. H. Paul. Mr. Paul, at the desire of Mrs. Grant, (then said to be delirious,) acknowledged the receipt of the five pounds. He would write again, and say any thing Mrs. Grant might dictate in a lucid interval.—He begged his answer might be left at the Chapter Coffee-house. His Lordship accordingly wrote to the Rev. H. Paul, with particular enquiries after the state of Mrs. Grant, and proposed to send her proper medical assistance. The Rev. Mr. Paul replied to his letter, and stated the nature of Mrs. Grant's complaint, which was of a delicate nature. He then stated the high notions of Mrs. Grant, who would not condescend to see any person from his Lordship, in her present wretched state.—She thought her situation such, that it was not delicate to admit any one to see her, but those absolutely necessary. Mr. Paul therefore promised (he said) not to divulge her residence; but, in her lucid intervals, she expressed the utmost anxiety to be enabled to thank her benefactor.

This correspondence produced a meeting between the supposed Rev. H. Paul and his Lordship, which took place at the Bell Inn, at Kilburn, on the 8th of August. The prisoner then introduced himself to his Lordship as the Rev. Henry Paul. They entered into conversation on the subject of Mrs. Grant, when his Lordship asked every question as to her situation, with a view to alleviate it. Mr. Paul said he had not seen her distinctly, for the curtains were closed round her, but the opium had had an affect which he had known it frequently to produce:

duce : it had given her eyes a more than usual brilliancy : with respect to her lodging, it was a very small room.— The woman who attended her seemed a good sort of a woman enough, and she was also attended by a surgeon or apothecary. As Mr. Paul seemed to be a man of respectability, his Lordship asked him at what seminary he had been brought up : the prisoner replied, he had been educated at Westminster and Oxford, and had the living of St. Kitt's, in Jamaica, worth about 700l. per annum ; that he had property in Ireland, and was going to America on private business. To his Lordship's question how he was so fortunate to meet this young woman, he said it was by accident, that quite looked like a romance.— He was coming to town in the Ongar stage, in which was a young woman, two children, and a lady, all in mourning. He entered into conversation with her, and was surprised to find her the daughter of a person at whose house, in Jamaica, he had himself been frequently received with kindness. Although his business pressed, he determined to stay and afford her some assistance.— He then stated that he had that day given her a 2l. note, which his Lordship, at this interview, returned (being the note on which the indictment was founded). He added, that Mrs. Grant's father was extremely affluent, and he should not wonder if he was to remit 500l. at the first intelligence of his daughter's situation. His Lordship added, that he expressed himself in the language of the purest truth and benevolence ; and as he appeared a well educated gentleman who had seen the world, his Lordship had no suspicion of any fraud.

After this interview, a correspondence ensued between Mr. Paul and his Lordship ; the former informing his Lordship daily of the state of Mrs. Grant's health, accompanied with requests for linen, poultry, fruit, and wine, all of which were supplied by the bounty of his Lordship.

At length Mrs. Grant was sufficiently recovered to write to his Lordship ; in which letter she remarked, that but for the kind assistance of the Rev. Mr. Paul, she should have been lost. And although she was ordered by her medical attendant to keep herself perfectly quiet, yet she

sat up in bed to write to his Lordship, and anticipated the pleasure of meeting her benefactor. The last letter from Mr. Paul was dated August 13. He acknowledged the receipt of 6l. 2s. which had been expended for Mrs. Grant; and informed his Lordship, that the sheets which had been sent had, by some accident, been near brimstone, which affected Mrs. Grant very much; that her situation required fine old linen, if his Lordship had any such. He apologized, if there were any inaccuracy in his letter, because he *had a head-ach and some degree of fever.*

The farce now began to draw to its conclusion. His Lordship received another letter from Mrs. Grant, dated Saturday, August 11, in which the supposed lady said:—

Last Saturday, her father's sister came to town, and found her out. She was a sour old lady, a man-hater, and snarled at the whole sex. She had taken Mrs. G. into the country with her, although she was removed at the peril of her life. The lady she was with was nearly as bad as her aunt; but, as the latter was going out for a few days, her Argus would let her come to town, which would enable her to meet his Lordship. As her ill-tempered aunt had given her neither money nor clothes, she begged 4l. of his Lordship. If this opportunity was lost she should never be able to see him, as her aunt was a vigilant guarded woman, and hated the men so much, that at the first entrance into her room, finding the Rev. Mr. Paul there, she most grossly affronted him. She could not have any letter addressed in her own name, lest it should fall into the hands of her aunt, and therefore begged his Lordship to direct to Mrs. Harriet, Post-office, Waltham.

His Lordship, in his answer to this letter, expressed some suspicions that he had been duped; in answer to which Mrs. Grant thanked Lord Clarendon for his favours, was sorry to think he should conceive himself duped, but he would find his mistake when she got home to the West Indies. In a postscript, she added—
“That best of men, Mr. Paul, died suddenly on Saturday last.”

This

This closed the intercourse between his Lordship and his correspondents, Mrs. Grant and Mr. Paul. Soon afterwards he received another letter from a Rev. Mr. Bennet, setting forth a deplorable tale of misery; but his suspicions being awakened, he employed his steward to trace the supposed Rev. Mr. Bennet; when it turned out to be the prisoner at the bar, who had imposed himself on his lordship as the Rev. Mr. Paul, that "best of men, whom Mrs. Grant stated to have died suddenly." His lodgings being searched, a book was found in his own hand-writing, giving an account of money received (by which it appeared, that he had plundered the public to the amount of 488*l.* within the last two years) with a list of the donor's names, among whom were the Duchess of Beaufort, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lord Littleton, Lady Howard, Lady Mary Duncan, Bishops of London, Salisbury, and Durham, Earls of Kingston and Radnor, Lord. C. Spencer, Hon. Mrs. Fox, &c. &c.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the court immediately sentenced him to seven years' transportation. He was sent to Botany Bay in April, 1805.

WILLIAM CUBITT,

EXECUTED IN NOVEMBER, 1805, FOR ROBBERY.

IN the history of crime in the British dominions, instances of servants treacherously robbing their masters are lamentably numerous. Not content in places where they live in luxury, and find little employment, they must ape the manners and expenses of their masters, and to support their mimic consequence, fall upon the property of their employers.

William Cubitt was a villain of this description, in the service of the Earl of Mansfield, and was convicted of stealing a gold snuff-box, set with brilliants, the property of that nobleman.

Lady Mansfield appeared upon his trial, and stated, that the prisoner lived in their service, and was chiefly employed by her, as groom of the chambers. She discharged

charged him by Lord Mansfield's directions, who was then at Ramsgate. Some time about the 26th or 30th of July, she had the snuff-box in question in her care. It was a blue enamel on gold, with a miniature of the Emperor Joseph II. on the top, set round with brilliants. The last time she recollected seeing it was some time in May, before they went to Caen-Wood. She kept it in a cabinet, in the organ-room, at their house in Portland-place. She knew nothing of the loss of it, until they received the magistrate's letter at Ramsgate, and then, upon a search, she found that the box had been lost.

J. Dobree, jeweller, stated, that on the 15th of August, the prisoner came to his house, and wanted to purchase a gold chain which was in the window. Having agreed for the price of it, he asked if he would take old gold in return? Being answered in the affirmative, he produced the fragments of a snuff-box, which the witness saw had been of curious workmanship. He called his journeyman aside, and conversed with him for a moment on the subject, and then he asked the prisoner where he got that gold? He replied, that he had it from a servant. The witness, in answer, said, he was sure it was no servant's property, and that he should not go away until he had given an account of it. The prisoner then snatched up the pieces of gold that lay upon the counter, and ran out of the shop. The witness followed him, overtook, and apprehended him. He was immediately carried to Marlborough-street office.

Foy and Lovatt, the two police-officers, belonging to Marlborough-street office, said, that the prisoner, on his examination, told the magistrate he lived at No. 21, Bolsover-street. They in consequence went to search his lodgings. They found in a drawer twelve brilliants, the crystal of a miniature picture; and, under the fire, half-burnt, they discovered the remains of a miniature painting.

Catharine Luffman, housekeeper to Lord Mansfield, said, the prisoner was discharged from their service on the 29th of July. On the 2d of August he came to the house in Portland-place, and said he had left some clothes behind him, which he wanted. She told him to go up
stairs



J. HARDING.

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stairs and get them. He did go up, but before he went he pulled his shoes off. She told him he had no occasion to do that; but he replied, he did not know whether the house was not cleaned. When he came down, she was sitting in the small library, under the organ-room, where the cabinet stood; and, if he had had his shoes on, she should have heard him over her head. He brought down with him two bundles, which he said contained his own clothes. After her lady had received a letter from Mr. Conant, at Ramsgate, she, by her order, searched the cabinet, and found that the box was gone. The lock was not broken or forced, and, after some consideration, she found that the key of the organ, which was always left in the lock, opened the lock of the cabinet, which stood in the same room.

Lord Mansfield examined the broken pieces of gold found on the prisoner, and declared he was convinced, from the workmanship, they were part of the box he had lost. The brilliants were the same sort as those round the miniature, but he could not swear that they were the same: he was positive, however, to the remains of the miniature. The face was destroyed; but the breast, with the Austrian orders, remained visible. He added, that the box was a gift from the late Emperor Joseph II. to his great uncle, on leaving Vienna. He did not know the exact value, but he presumed somewhat about 200 guineas.

The jury found the prisoner Guilty.

He was executed, pursuant to his sentence, with two other malefactors, on Wednesday morning, November 13, 1805, at the usual place, in the Old Bailey.

JOHN HARDING,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, NOVEMBER 13, 1805, FOR FORGERY.

VARIOUS as we have already described the commission of this crime, yet we find in this man's case a new species of forgery. He was indicted at the Old Bailey, September 21st, 1805, for forging, fabricating, uttering, and

and publishing, as true, a stamp on the ace of spades of a pack of cards.

The Attorney General opened the case on the part of the prosecution, in a very long speech, in which he stated to the jury the outline of the prisoner's transactions. The first witness called on was Mr. Hockley, the printer of the legal spade ace at the Stamp-Office. He had (in consequence of suspicions entertained at the Stamp-office, on account of the small demand the prisoner there made for stamps, and the extensive business which he seemed to carry on) very frequently made purchases of packs of cards of the prisoner, as had also his apprentice, and the stamps on the aces of spades were all forgeries. These purchases, which were very numerous, took place in the month of May, 1804. It appeared by the evidence adduced on the part of the prosecution, that the prisoner kept two shops, where these packs of cards were sold, the one in Hereford-street, Oxford-street, and the other in North-row, near Grosvenor-square. On the 27th of May, Mr. Hockley ordered five dozen packs of cards to be sent to No. 74, Edgware-Road, which were accordingly sent, and the person who carried them, Vincent Jackson (as he also deposed), gave a receipt for the money (10l. 5s.) in a fictitious name (B. A. Bates); Harding having desired him to give the receipt in any name he pleased. The prisoner's apprentice, Stephen Lepine, deposed, that he saw his master making cards on one occasion, and observed him to paste labels on them, which he gave a gloss to by putting some liquid on them. Witness also proved, that the prisoner occupied premises behind the house of Mr. Skelton, Green-street, Grosvenor-square. A body of evidence was adduced to prove that the prisoner had employed a seal-engraver of the name of Leadbeater to execute aces of spades for him. Leadbeater dined with the prisoner two years since, when he asked him if he could engrave on copper. On being answered in the negative, the prisoner requested he would find some trusty artist in that branch. Leadbeater recommended a youth of the name of White, who, the prisoner was informed, could be depended on. Four duty aces were given to Leadbeater for White to imitate
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as closely as possible ; and if he was asked any questions, he was to say they were for a foreigner at Hamburgh. White, however, was timid, and declined the task, so that all negociations with him were abandoned. In six or seven months after, the prisoner pressed on Leadbeater to learn the art of engraving on copper, adding, that he would be at the expense of a master. Mr. Woodthorpe, a respectable engraver in Fetter-lane, was applied to, and the witness was placed under his tuition. The prisoner's visits to Leadbeater were very frequent, and one day he shewed him an old plate of the spade ace, which he wished to be touched up. Witness was unable to do the job, and an apprentice of the name of Bunning was employed, under the impression that the plate was for Mr. Shepherd, at the Stamp-office. It was also proved, in evidence, that the prisoner had large dealings with Mr. Skelton for spirits, &c. for which he gave waste paper ; that is, packs of cards, which Mr. S. sold at a profit. Rivet, Miller, and Carpmeal, searched the premises occupied by the prisoner, at the back of Mr. Skelton's house. They found a quantity of forged stamps of the spade ace, and also a quantity of forged plates for fabricating the stamps, which were concealed under ground. In the counterfeit ace, in the word, " Dieu," in the motto, the letter R. was substituted for the letter E. Mr. Justice Heath addressed the jury, and observed, there could be no doubt in the case. The jury found the prisoner Guilty, and he suffered accordingly.

He was a genteel man, thirty-five years of age : on the day of his trial he was dressed in black, and full powdered.

THOMAS PICTON, ESQ.

(*Late Governor of Trinidad,*)

CONVICTED FEBRUARY 24, 1806, OF APPLYING A MOST CRUEL TORTURE
IN ORDER TO EXTORT CONFESSION FROM LOUISA CALDERON.

" ALL mankind being exposed to the attempts of violence and perfidy," says Voltaire, " detest the crimes of which they may possibly be the victims : all desire

that the principal offender and his accomplices may be punished ; nevertheless, there is a natural compassion in the human heart, which makes all men detest the cruelty of torturing the accused into confession. The law has not condemned him, and yet, though uncertain of the crime, you inflict a punishment more horrible than that which they are to suffer when their guilt is confirmed. ‘ Possibly thou mayest be innocent ; but I will torture thee that I may be satisfied ; not that I intend to make thee any recompense for the thousand deaths which I have made thee suffer, in lieu of that which is preparing for thee.’ Who does not shudder at the idea ? St. Augustine opposed such cruelty. The Romans tortured their slaves only ; and Quintillian, recollecting that they were men, reproved the Romans for such want of humanity.”

These observations of the French philosopher do not inaptly introduce a case in which an English governor was convicted of putting to the torture a female, Louisa Calderon, one of his Majesty’s subjects in the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies, in order to extort confession. It is due, however, to the memory of a man who, on several occasions, established a high character for personal courage, and who bravely fell in the most memorable conflict recorded in our history, to add that, although the first trial excited those feelings to which Englishmen are ever alive, and which the different result of the second trial did not immediately remove, there is no reason to suppose that deliberate cruelty was any part of his character, but rather that he incautiously and improperly signed the order for the infliction of so revolting a punishment, sent to him by the law authorities of the island for that purpose.

Mr. Garrow stated to the jury, that the duty had devolved to him, by the removal of a learned gentleman* to an exalted station, which deprived them of the advantage of his greater abilities, to lay before them a statement of the singular and horrid transaction which was the

* Mr. Erskine, who was retained as leading counsel for the crown, and, a short time before the trial, was appointed Lord High Chancellor of England.

subject of this prosecution; and although he should acquit himself zealously of the obligation imposed upon him, to bring to light, and condign punishment, an offence so flagrant as that charged upon the defendant, yet much more happy would he be, to find that there was no ground upon which the charge could be supported, and that the British character was not stained by the adoption of so cruel a measure as that alledged in this prosecution.

“The island of Trinidad (added Mr. Garrow) surrendered to that illustrious character, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, in the year 1797; and he entered into a stipulation, by which he conceded to the inhabitants the continuance of their laws, and appointed a new governor, until his Majesty’s pleasure should be known, or in other words, until the king of England, in his paternal character, should extend to this new acquisition to his empire, all the sacred privileges of the laws of England. I have the authority of the defendant himself for stating, that the system of jurisprudence adopted under the Spanish monarch, for his colonial establishments, was benignant, and adapted to the protection of the subject, previous to the surrender of this island to the British arms.

“In December, 1801, when this crime was perpetrated, Louisa Calderon was of the tender age of ten or eleven years. At that early period, she had been induced to live with a person of the name of Pedro Ruiz, as his mistress; and although it appears to us very singular that she should sustain such a situation at that time of life, yet it is a fact, that, in this climate, women often become mothers at twelve years old, and are in a state of concubinage, if, from their condition, they could not form a more honourable connection. While she lived with Ruiz, she was engaged in an intrigue with Carlos Gonzalez, the pretended friend of the former, who robbed him of a quantity of dollars. Gonzalez was apprehended, and she also, as some suspicion fell upon her, in consequence of the affair. She was taken before the justice, as we, in our language, should denominate him, and, in his presence, she denied having any concern in the business.

The magistrate felt that his powers were at an end ; and whether the object of her denial were to protect herself, or her friend, is not material to the question before you. The extent of his authority being thus limited, this officer of justice resorted to General Picton ; and I have to produce, in the hand-writing of the defendant, this bloody sentence :—‘ Inflict the Torture upon Louisa Calderon.’ You will believe there was no delay in proceeding to its execution. The girl was informed in the gaol, that if she did not confess, she would be subjected to the torture ; that under the process she might probably lose her limbs or her life, but the calamity would be on her own head, for if she would confess, she would not be required to endure it. While her mind was in the state of agitation this notice produced, her fears were aggravated by the introduction of two or three negresses into her prison, who were to suffer under the same experiment for witchcraft, and as a means of extorting confession. In this situation of alarm and horror, the young woman persisted in her innocence ; the punishment was inflicted, improperly called picketing, which is a military punishment, perfectly distinct. This is not picketing, but the torture. It is true, the soldier, exposed to this, does stand with his foot on a picket, or sharp piece of wood, but, in mercy to him, a means of reposing is afforded, on the rotundus major, or interior of the arm. This practice, I hope, will not in future be called ‘ Picketing,’ but ‘ Pictoning,’ that it may be recognized by the dreadful appellation which belongs to it. Her position may be easily described. The great toe was lodged upon a sharp piece of wood, while the opposite wrist was suspended in a pully, and the other hand and foot were lashed together. Another time the horrid ceremony was repeated, with this difference, that her feet were changed.”

[The learned counsel here produced a drawing in water colours, in which the situation of the sufferer, and the magistrate, executioner, and secretary, was described. He then proceeded :]

“ It appears to me, that the case, on the part of the prosecution, will be complete when these facts are established in evidence ; but I am to be told, that though the
highest

highest authority in this country could not practise this on the humblest individual, yet, that by the laws of Spain it can be perpetrated in the Island of Trinidad. I should venture to assert, that if it were written in characters impossible to be misunderstood, if it were the acknowledged law of Trinidad, it could be no justification of a British Governor. Nothing could vindicate it but the law of imperious necessity, to which we must all submit. It was his duty to impress upon the minds of the people of that colony, the great advantages they would derive from the benign influence of British jurisprudence; and that in consequence of being received within the pale of this government, torture would be forever banished from the island. It is, therefore, not sufficient for him to establish this sort of apology; it is required of him to shew, that he complied with the institutions under the circumstances of irresistible necessity. This governor ought to have been aware, that the torture is not known in England; and that it never will be, never can be, tolerated in this country.

“The trial by rack is utterly unknown to the law of England, though once, when the Dukes of Exeter and Suffolk, and other ministers of Henry VI. had laid a design to introduce the civil law into this kingdom, as the rule of government, for a beginning thereof they erected a rack for torture, which was called in derision the Duke of Exeter’s daughter, and still remains in the Tower of London, where it was occasionally used as an engine of state, not of law, more than once in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But when, upon the assassination of Villiers Duke of Buckingham, by Felton, it was proposed in the Privy Council to put the assassin to the rack, in order to discover his accomplices, the judges, being consulted, declared unanimously that no such proceeding was allowable by the laws of England.

“Such are the observations of the elegant and learned author of the ‘Commentaries on the Law of England’ on this subject; and as the strongest method of shewing the horror of the practice, he gives this question in the form of an arithmetical problem:—

‘The strength of the muscles and the sensibility of the
nerves

nerves being given, it is required to know what degree of pain would be necessary to make any particular individual confess his guilt.'

"But what are we to say to this man, who, so far from having found torture in practice under the former governors, has attached to himself all the infamy of having invented this instrument of cruelty? Like the Duke of Exeter's daughter, it never had existence until the defendant cursed the island with its production. I have incontestable evidence to shew this ingenuity of tyranny in a British Governor; and the moment I produce the sanguinary order, the man is left absolutely without defence. The date of the transaction is removed at some distance. It was directed that a commission should conduct the affairs of the government, and among the persons appointed to this important situation was Colonel Fullarton. In the exercise of his duties in that situation, he attained the knowledge of these facts; and with this information, he thought it incumbent on him to bring this defendant before you; and with the defendant, I shall produce the victim of this enormity, whom, from the accident of my being conducted into a room by mistake, I have myself seen. She will be presented before you, and you will learn she at this moment bears upon her the marks of the barbarity of the defendant. In due time you will hear what my excellent and amiable friend near me has to offer in behalf of his client; I state the case at present with full confidence in your verdict; I ask nothing from your passions; nothing but justice do I require; and I have no doubt at the end of this trial that you will be found to have faithfully exercised your important duty."

Louisa Calderon was then called. She appeared about eighteen years of age, of a very interesting countenance, being a Mulatto or Creole, of a very genteel appearance. She was dressed in white, with a turban of white muslin, tied on in the custom of the country. Her person was slender and graceful. She spoke English but very indifferently; and was examined by Mr. Adam, through the medium of a Spanish interpreter.

She deposed, that she resided in the island of Trinidad,

dad, in the year 1798; and lived in the house of Don Pedro Ruiz, and remembered the robbery. She and her mother were taken up on suspicion, and brought before Governor Picton, who committed them to prison, under the escort of three soldiers; she was put into close confinement; and before she was taken there the governor said, "If she did not confess who had stolen the money, the hangman would have to deal with her." She knew Begora, the magistrate, or Lord Mayor. He came to the prison, and examined her on the subject of the robbery many times, and on different days. De Castro, the clerk of the magistrate, also attended, and took down her depositions.

She was then carried to the room where the torture was prepared. Here her left hand was tied up to the ceiling by a rope, with a pulley; her right hand was tied behind, so that her right foot and hand came in contact, while the extremity of her left foot rested on the wooden spike.

A drawing, representing the exact situation, with the negro holding the rope by which she was suspended, was then shewn to her; when she gave a shudder, expressive of horror, which nothing but the most painful recollection of her situation could have excited; on which Mr. Garrow expressed his concern, that his lordship was not in a position to witness this accidental, but conclusive, evidence of the fact.

Lord Ellenborough objected to the exhibition of this drawing to the jury, until Mr. Dallas, on the part of his client, permitted it to be shewn to them. The examination then proceeded, and the remainder of Louisa Calderon's evidence corroborated the statement of Mr. Garrow. She remained upon the spike three quarters of an hour, and the next day twenty-two minutes. She swooned away each time before she was taken down, and was then put into irons called the "Grillos," which were long pieces of iron, with two rings for the feet, fastened to the wall; and in this situation she remained eight months. A drawing of this instrument was also produced, which the witness said was an exact representation.

The effect from this picketing was excruciating pain;
her

her wrists and ancles were much swollen ; and the former bore the marks to the present day. In reply to a question by Lord Ellenborough, she said, her feet were without shoes and stockings.

The gaoler, Ballot the magistrate, Francisco de Castro, and Raphael, an alguazil, with the executioner, were present at these picketings.

Don Rafael Shando also, assisted by the interpreter, said, that he was an alguazil, in the island of Trinidad, in the year 1801 ; that he returned from the interior of the country on the 22d of December, and saw Louisa Calderon in gaol ; that they were then giving her a glass of water, after bringing her down from the torture. She was supporting herself on a table ; it was about seven o'clock in the evening. Beggerratt desired witness to bring Carlos up, and told her, that she must repeat to Carlos what she had said to him.

After this interview, at which nothing transpired, she was instantly put in the grillos, and in the same room in which she had suffered the torture. The apartment was like a garret, with sloping sides, and the grillos were so placed, that, from the lowness of the room, she could by no means raise herself up, during the eight months of her confinement.

On the 23d of December she was again put to the torture, between eleven and twelve in the morning, and she remained in this situation for twenty-two minutes by the watch.

The witness here examined the drawing, and described the position much in the way it had been before represented, and then added,—She fainted twice in his arms. Beggerratt sent vinegar to the executioner, to administer to her in this situation.

There was no advocate appointed to attend on her behalf, and no surgeon to assist her. No one but a negro, belonging to Ballot, the gaoler, to pull the rope. As soon as she was taken down, she was put into the grillos. The witness had seen her sister bring her victuals, but never noticed the admission of her sister or her friend, into the gaol. The witness had been four or five years in the post of alguazil. He never knew the torture inflicted in the island

island, until the arrival of the defendant. There had been before no instrument for the purpose. The first he saw was in the barracks among the soldiers.

Before Louisa Calderon, the instrument had been introduced into the gaol perhaps about six months. The first person he saw tortured in Trinidad was by direction of the defendant, who said to the gaoler, "Go and fetch the black man to the picket-guard, and put him to the torture."

After the eight months' confinement both Carlos and Louisa were discharged.

On his cross-examination by Mr. Laws, he said that Carlos was discharged at the time the judge ordered him to bring the money; that he went from the island, he did not know by whose orders; and that he took his passage to Margarita.

Don Juan Montes said that he was acquainted with the handwriting of the defendant, and proved the document containing the order of the torture, expressed in these terms:

"Aplicase la question a Louisa Calderon."*

(Signed)

"THOMAS PICTON."

After some observations from Mr. Dallas, which were answered by Mr. Garrow, the Lord Chief Justice ruled that the application of the Alcade Beggerrat, which led to the issue of this order, should be read.

Mr. Lowton then read the representation of this officer, advising that slight torture should be applied, stating that his own authority was incompetent to do it without the order of the governor, and giving the result of the proceedings in the course of the examinations Louisa Calderon had undergone. The instrument was countersigned by Francisco de Castro.

Don Juan Montes said that he had known the island of Trinidad since the year 1793. That the torture was never introduced until after the conquest of the island,

* i. e. Put Louisa Calderon to the torture or the question.

and was then practised by order of the defendant. It was first used with the military in 1799, and two years afterwards in the gaol.

Mr. Garrow then intimated to the Court that he had many more witnesses to these facts, but did not think it necessary to waste the time of the Court with any more of them.

Lord Ellenborough thought the evidence was sufficient on these points.

Mr. Dallas, for the defendant, rested his defence upon the following statements :—

First,—By the law of Spain, in the present instance, torture was directed ; and, being bound to administer that law, he was vindicated in its application.

Secondly,—The order for the torture, if not unlawfully, was not maliciously issued.

Thirdly,—If it were unlawful, yet, if the order were erroneously or mistakenly issued, it is a complete answer to a criminal charge.

The learned counsel entered at considerable length into these positions, during which he compared the law of Spain, as it prevailed in Trinidad, with the law of England, as it subsisted in some of our own islands ; and he contended that the conduct of General Picton was gentleness and humanity, compared to what might be practised with impunity under the authority of the British government.

After a long interlocutory discussion, several items of the examinations taken on the island for the purpose of this cause were read by the clerk of the court.

The next testimony adduced was that of Mr. Gloucester, the Attorney-general of his Majesty in the island, who deposed to the authenticity of several books on the laws of the island, among which were the *Elisondo*, the *Curia Philippica*, the *Bobadilla*, the *Colom*, and the *Recopilacion des Leyes*.

Various passages in these books were then referred to, and translated, for the purpose of shewing that torture was not only permitted in certain cases, but in the particular instance before the jury.

Mr. Garrow was then allowed to call a witness, to
shew

shew that however such a law might at any time have existed, or might still exist, in Spain, it did not prevail in the West-Indian colonies of that power. To this end Don Pedro de Vargass was sworn. He deposed that, during the early part of his life, he had been regularly initiated and admitted to the office of an advocate at the Spanish law-courts in the colonies; that he had practised, after his admission, in the regular course, for two years, and had resided, for a shorter or more extensive period, at five or six of the West-Indian islands, in the pursuit of his profession; and that according to his knowledge of the Book of Recapitulation, by which the laws are administered, there was nothing contained in it to justify the infliction of torture; nor was torture, to his knowledge, ever resorted to. He had not ever seen or heard of instruments for torture being kept in the gaols, or elsewhere.

In reply to a question, "Do you know of any existing Spanish law whatever which warrants the application of torture?" he said that there was a law of Old Castile, of the year 1260, which justified it in certain cases; but he never understood that it extended to the West-Indian colonies; and it had long been so abhorrent in Spain, that, if not repealed, it was fallen entirely into disuse.

On cross-examination by Mr. Dallas, he said that he did not know of any law which forbade the practice of torturing persons in the colonies; and admitted that he had been employed by Colonel Fullarton as an interpreter and translator of part of the evidence to be employed in this prosecution.

In answer to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Mr. Dallas said that he certainly was not prepared with any parole evidence to prove that the infliction of torture prevailed generally in the Spanish West-Indies.

Lord Ellenborough appeared to be about to close the case here, with the observation that the special verdict which had been consented to was granted on the supposition that a greater contrariety of evidence on the subject of the law of the colony would have been elicited than now really appeared; but it was thought it would,

perhaps, be better, before the jury were called on for a general verdict, that the counsel should, if they thought proper, address to them what observations they might have to make.

Mr. Dallas then rose and said, that, in the stage of the investigation to which the jury had arrived, he should content himself with submitting to their determination the single fact, unencumbered with any question of his, whether the criminal judge, by the law of Spain, could, in any instance, order the application of torture? To prove that the discretion did rest with that officer, he did not call to them persons who spoke from the observation they had made during any short periods they might have resided in the colonies; but he produced to them the unequivocal testimony of books of the first law authority, which were constantly resorted to, as had been proved by the judges, on all occasions of doubt or difficulty. As charitable men, and as men of sense, must they not conclude that this code of reference was correctly elucidatory of the law, as it was meant to be dispensed? The works of distinguished civilians, writing upon the jurisprudence of their country, were a ground upon which he felt he stood firmly in defence of his client. The law of 1260 was proved by them to have existed, and to be still existing, to the date of the works of the last writer he had cited. No attempt had even been made by the ingenious counsel to shew that the universality of the Spanish law, as applied to the colonies, had been broken in upon by any special privilege enjoyed at Trinidad; and he would ask, therefore, could the jury, upon their oaths, decide that what had transpired there, and was the subject of this prosecution, was not agreeable to a law that had authorized it, and which there was no proof had fallen into disuse?

Mr. Garrow said that he looked at this case as he regarded the honour of our country, and the *redress of a stranger*, who had visited our land to procure it. If the defendant had had *an English heart in his bosom*, he would have wanted no restrictive provisions to have guarded him from the *commission of sanguinary acts*. He feared that it remained to the disgrace of the British name

name that General Picton was the *first* man to stretch authority, and order torture to be established, in the island of Trinidad. After a few other animated observations, Mr. Garrow said he left the case to the decision of the jury, confidently anticipating their verdict.

Lord Ellenborough recommended to the jury to divest their minds of whatever feelings they might have contracted in the course of the present trial, and to throw every part of the case out of their consideration except that which related to this simple point—What was the law by which the island of Trinidad was governed at the period of its capture by the British? It was for the consideration of the jury whether the law then subsisting authorized personal torture as to witnesses. By the indulgence of the government of this country the subsisting law was to continue. The question was, What was that subsisting law? The jury would observe that it did not necessarily follow, because Trinidad was a colony of Old Spain, that it must therefore, in every part, have the laws of Old Spain. It did not originally form any part of that country, but had been annexed to it; and on what terms there was no positive evidence. It did not appear that either the schedule peculiar to this island, or the recapitulation, embraced the criminal law, or made any mention of torture. So, if torture did subsist in this island, it must be on the authority of law-books read to the jury, which it was for them to say whether they were sufficient to satisfy them of that fact. It was ascertained by a person thirty-two years of age, and who had been almost all his life-time in the island; by another person who had been an Alcade; by Mr. Nugent, who had resided in the island since the year 1786; and by a person who had studied the law of New Spain, and had known the Spanish West-Indies from his infancy; that torture had not, to their knowledge, or within their recollection, ever been practised in the island. It was, therefore, for the jury to say, in absence of all positive proof on the subject, and in the face of so much negative evidence, if the law of Spain was so fully and completely established in Trinidad as to make torture a part of the law of that island. Without going through the authorities, he thought the jury

jury might take it to be the existing law of Old Spain that torture might be inflicted. It was too much to say that a discontinuance of a practice could repeal a law ; but still it was for them to say if they were convinced that torture had ever been part of the law of Trinidad. Our law-books might be recognised in Jamaica, but yet it did not follow that every thing in them must extend to our colonies. It was, therefore, for them, on the whole, to say if they were convinced that torture was part of the law of Trinidad at the time of its capture. If so, they would enter a special verdict ; if otherwise, they would find the defendant guilty.

The jury found—There was no such law existing in the island of Trinidad as that of torture at the time of the surrender of that island to the British.

Lord Ellenborough—"Then, gentlemen, General Picton cannot derive any protection from a supposed law, after you have found that no such law obtained in that island at the surrender of it, and when he became its governor ; and therefore your verdict should be, that he is guilty."

By the direction of Lord Ellenborough, they therefore found the defendant "Guilty."

The trial lasted from nine in the morning till seven at night.

Governor Picton walked in the hall of the Four Courts during the whole of the trial. He is a tall man, of a very sallow complexion, apparently about fifty years of age, and was dressed in black. He was accompanied by several of the civil officers of the island.

Mr. Dallas moved, on the 25th of April, for a new trial. He stated that the defendant was a person of respectability and character in his Majesty's service, as governor of the island of Trinidad. He solicited for a new trial upon the following grounds :

First,—The infamous character of the girl, who lived in open prostitution with Pedro Ruiz, and who had been privy to a robbery committed upon her paramour by Carlos Gonzalez ; and, when a complaint found against her had been brought before a magistrate, she, refusing to confess, had been ordered to be tortured.

Secondly,—

Secondly,—That Governor Picton, who condemned her to this torture, did not proceed from any motives of malice, but from a conviction that the right of torture was sanctioned by the laws of Trinidad; and that he was rooted in this opinion by a reference to the legal written authorities in that island.

Thirdly,—That, whatever his conduct might have been, it certainly arose neither from personal malice nor a disposition to tyranny, but resulted, if it should prove to be wrong, from a misapprehension of the laws of Trinidad.

Fourthly,—That one of the principal witnesses in this trial, M. Vargass, had brought forward a book, entitled “*Recopilacion des Leyes des Indes*,” expressly compiled for the Spanish colonies, which did not authorize torture. The defendant had no opportunity of ever seeing that book; but it had been purchased by the British Institution at the sale of the Marquis of Lansdowne’s library, subsequent to his trial; and, having consulted it, it appeared that, where that code was silent upon some criminal cases, recourse was always to be had to the laws of Old Spain; and these laws, of course, sanctioned the infliction of torture.

The Court, after some consideration, granted the rule to shew cause for a new trial.

JOHN LEONARD WHITE,

EXECUTED FEBRUARY 5, 1806, FOR CUTTING AND MAIMING WILLIAM RANDALL, A WATCHMAN.

THIS notorious offender, who was forty-nine years of age when he suffered, was, according to his own account, the son of a man of property, who had left him 5000*l*. He was tried at the summer assizes in Maidstone, 1805, as being an accomplice with that set of burglars who long infested the neighbourhood of Blackheath, but acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. However, he did not long outlive his companions, Webb and Russel, who were found guilty at that time; although he then publicly boasted that the police-officers, whom he well knew, should

should never capitally convict him, as he would take care that no instrument of housebreaking, or fire-arms, should be ever found in his possession.

It is said that he and some others, determining to rob a gentleman's house, had got to the back-garden wall, when a conversation took place who should get over first, as there were several servants about the house; when one of the thieves said, "If they come I am prepared for them, as I have poppers (pistols)." "Then," said White, "you may go and rob by yourselves, for I will have nothing to do with it;" and he left them. They succeeded, however, in effecting the robbery; and White, it is said, having found out the amount taken, insisted on a share of the produce; for he used to say he always thought it bad enough to rob, without using people ill: yet he forfeited his life on that account; for, on his return to London, he, in company with John Richardson, endeavouring, upon one of those occasions, to escape, cut and maimed a watchman, who was about to apprehend him, for which White and Richardson were brought to trial, at the commencement of the Old Bailey sessions, December 4, 1805, before the Lord Mayor, Mr. Justice Grose, Mr. Baron Graham, the Recorder, &c.

Eliza Russel, a servant at No 36, Lamb's Conduit-street, said that she heard the prisoners in the area, between the 23d and 24th of September, endeavouring to make a burglarious entry into her master's house. She therefore called in the assistance of three watchmen, to apprehend them.

William Randall, a watchman, and who was the prosecutor, went with the other watchmen into the area of the house, where the prisoners were standing, with the intention to take them into custody; on which White struck him a blow on the head with an iron crow: the other also aided in the assault, but they were secured. The facts of the case were proved, and the prisoners found "Guilty."

On Friday, Dec. 6, the prisoners were put to the bar, and Mr. Alley, on their behalf, moved an arrest of judgment. He grounded this motion on two points: first, that the indictment ought to have averred that the prosecutor



RICHARD PATCH.

cutor intended to apprehend them ; secondly, that Richardson not being present when the blow was given, the evidence ought not to have implicated him.

Mr. Justice Grose and Mr. Baron Graham both concurred in opinion that it was entirely a matter for the jury ; and that they, by their verdict, had found the facts in the affirmative. Motion refused.

Richardson was, however, respited ; but White was executed, pursuant to his sentence.

RICHARD PATCH,

EXECUTED ON THE TOP OF THE NEW PRISON, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK, APRIL 8, 1806, FOR MURDER.

THIS is another case which fully proves that the utmost caution, the most deliberately planned scheme, or the most artful preparatory measures to attach suspicion to some other cause, or to make it fall upon the guiltless, will never conceal murder. Such was the care taken by the ungrateful and cruel Richard Patch, to no purpose, in the murder of his benefactor, Mr. Isaac Blight, a ship-breaker, of Rotherhithe.

Richard Patch was born in the year 1770, at the village of Heavytree, Devonshire, within two miles of Exeter. His family had a name somewhat respectable among the yeomen of the county. The grandfather of Patch had a freehold estate in land, of the value of 50*l.* per annum, in a neighbouring village. His father, according to the custom of many of the petty farmers, who reside on the sea-coast in the distant counties, was a smuggler. He was noted in his time for a fierceness and intrepidity peculiar to this class of men. Many feats are yet related of his dexterity and enterprise in eluding and daring the officers of the Excise. He has been said frequently to have cut his way through bodies of this military police ; and to have spread such a terror by his name, that it was often judged safer to connive at than to resist his depredations on the revenue. Richard Patch's mother was a woman respected, and estimable in her condition.

But, as the life of a smuggler is a scene of constant hazards and escapes, his father was at length laid hold of by the officers of the revenue, condemned in heavy fines, and sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months in the new gaol at Exeter. When the period of his confinement was at an end, he did not, however, desert his station in the prison, but was engaged by the keeper as one of the turnkeys. In this situation he died, leaving several children; the eldest of whom was Richard, who had been bound apprentice to a butcher at Ebmere, a small village, the most notorious in Devonshire for the flagitiousness of the manners and morals of its inhabitants. Nothing perhaps contributed to taint his mind more in early youth than the excessive indulgence of his father. His pockets were perpetually filled with money, which encouraged him in indolence, riot, and dissipation.

Upon the death of the elder Patch, Richard succeeded to the above-mentioned estate. He now quitted the trade of a butcher, and commenced farmer, uniting with his own paternal estate a small farm which he rented. It seems, however, that he farmed with little or no success, as he was soon obliged to mortgage his estate for more than one half of its value. Some years, however, were passed at Ebmere, when an accident drove him from his home. From motives which it is unnecessary to examine, he had quarrelled with the rector of his parish, and, in order to be revenged, he removed the produce of his farm from off his land, without setting out the tenths for the rector. In other words, he refused to pay the tithes. The consequence was a lawsuit, and an immediate action in the Exchequer. Patch, shuddering at the expense of the litigation, certain of the result which awaited him, and perhaps somewhat embarrassed in his circumstances, quitted Devonshire in the spring of the year 1803.

Upon his coming to London he immediately presented himself at Mr. Blight's, with whom his sister at that time lived as a menial servant, together with a brother of his, (of whom it is somewhat extraordinary that no mention was made in the course of his trial,) who was brought up a baker, but, for some reasons which it is unnecessary to enter into, was now in the service of Mr. Blight, as a kind

kind of overseer or superintendent in the shipping business.

It must here be observed that Mr. Blight had formerly been a West-India merchant, and had failed; upon which he engaged in the ship-breaking business, and was at this time carrying it on with great success. His embarrassment, in fact, arose from the severity and persecution of certain trustees, who acted for his former creditors: thus his old debts, during the time in which he was engaged in the West-India business, weighed him down, and not any contracted in his new occupation.

Patch had not long entered the service of Mr. Blight, when, from jealousy or some uneasiness, his brother quitted it. He had been disappointed in endeavouring to set up for himself in the business of a baker, to which he was bred; and this mortification, perhaps aggravated by the conduct of his brother Richard, excited such a disgust in his mind, that he immediately went to sea, and sailed to the West-Indies, where he soon died a victim to the yellow fever.

Richard had not been long in the service of Mr. Blight when he naturally cast a look towards his estate in Devonshire, and commenced a journey into that county for the purpose of making an arrangement respecting it. Accordingly, in 1804, he disposed of his land; for which, having first been obliged to clear off every embarrassment, he received a net sum of 350l. 250l. of which Mr. Blight received for the purpose hereafter mentioned; and the remaining 100l. passed through the hands of his bankers, whom he probably constituted as such upon the credit of this money.

The next year, 1805, on the 23d of September, Mr. Blight, who was induced to come to town by means of Mr. Patch, during the absence of the latter was mortally wounded by a pistol, which was secretly fired at him, and which occasioned his death the next day. The case was particularly inquired into by A. Graham, Esq. the magistrate, who, suspecting Patch of the horrid murder of his friend and master, committed him to prison, and his trial

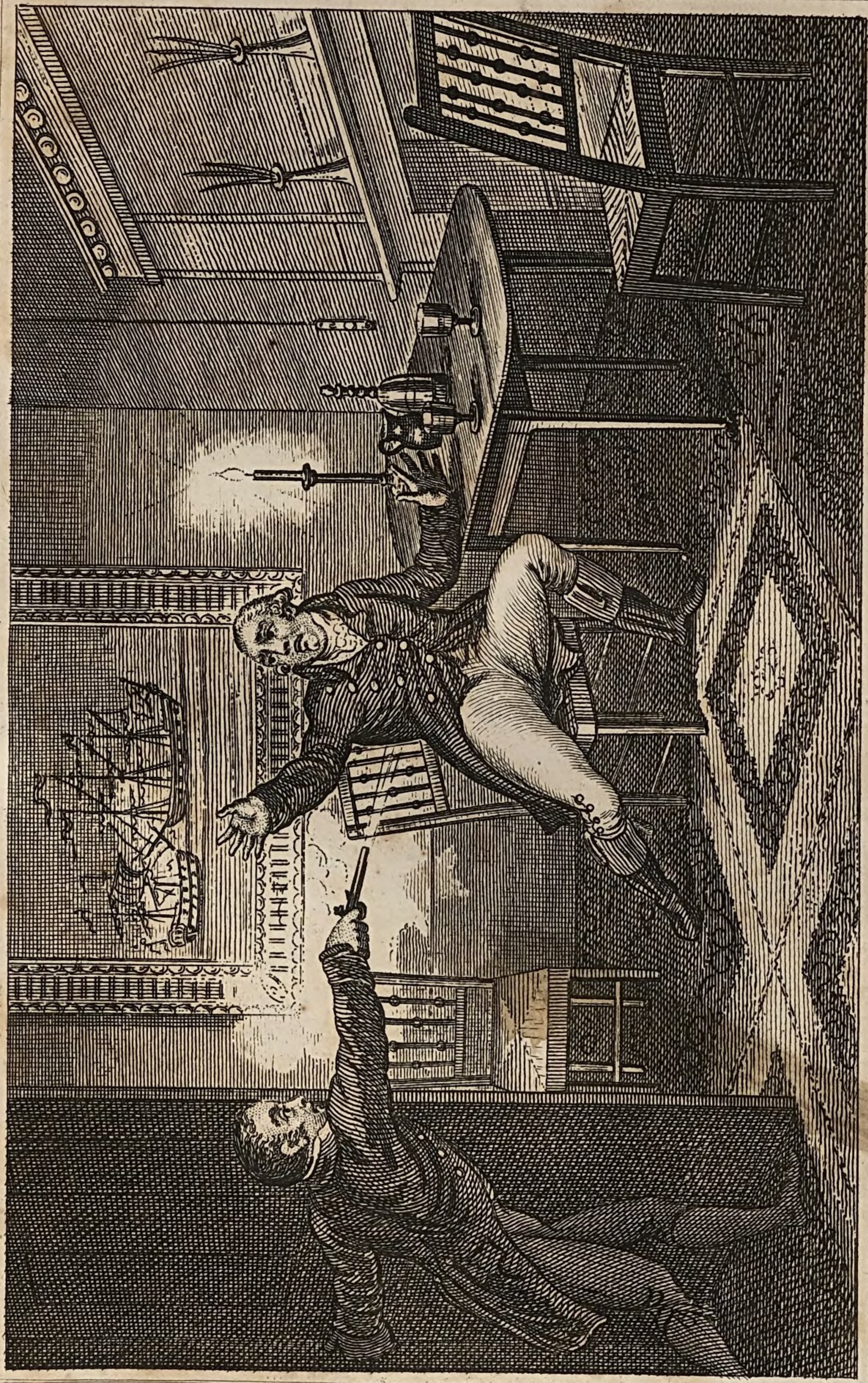
came on at the Surrey assizes, continued by adjournment to Horsemonger-lane, in the Borough, Saturday, April 5, 1806.

So great was the interest excited by the approaching investigation, that by five o'clock in the morning a vast concourse of the populace had surrounded the avenues to the Sessions-house, Horsemonger-lane. On the opening of the Court, it was with the utmost difficulty that the law-officers, and others whose appearance was necessary, could gain an entrance. The persons of rank who obtained admission were the Dukes of Sussex, Cumberland, and Orleans; Lords Portsmouth, Grantley, Cranley, Montford, William Russell, Deerhurst, and G. Seymour; Sir John Frederick, Sir John Shelly, Sir Thomas Turton, Sir William Clayton, Sir J. Mawbey; Count Woronzow, the Russian Ambassador, and his secretary. The magistrates, who had met for that purpose the preceding Wednesday, had made every accommodation that the Court would admit of; it was floored, and lined with matting, and the upper parts covered with green baize. New railing was put up on the sides and rear, and a box fitted up for the Royal Family.

The prisoner was conducted into Court soon after nine o'clock, and took his station at the bar, attended by two or three friends. He was genteelly dressed in black, and perfect composure marked his countenance and manner. Precisely at ten o'clock the Lord Chief Baron Macdonald took his seat on the Bench, and the business of the commission was opened by arraigning the prisoner in the usual form. To the indictment he pleaded, in an audible voice, "Not Guilty," and put himself on his country.

He peremptorily challenged three jurors: after which a jury were sworn, and the indictment read.

The first witness called was Mr. Richard Frost, a publican, who kept the Dog and Duck. The first part of his testimony (for he was called in a second time) related merely to the fact of the death of Mr. Blight. He stated that, on the morning of the 23d September last, he was sent for by the prisoner, in consequence of the deceased



THE MURDER of MR. BLIGHT.

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deceased having been shot: he went, and found him leaning on his hands, and wounded.

Mr. Ashley Cooper said he was called in to the assistance of Mr. Blight. Upon examining him he found he had received a wound near the navel, and another in the groin. He observed that they were gun-shot wounds; and, as the body of the deceased was considerably inflated, he pronounced them mortal: he observed the bowels coming through the wounds. The next morning Patch came to him, said the deceased was in extreme pain, and wished to know whether any thing could be done for him. The witness told him he feared there could not. This was about seven in the morning. He rose and went to him, and found him in a very swollen state. He promised to return in the afternoon with a physician. He went to town, and came back with Dr. Barrington; but Mr. Blight had been dead about three quarters of an hour. He had not the smallest doubt that the wounds were the occasion of his death.

Richard Frost was again called up to speak to the firing of the gun. He stated that on Thursday, the 19th, "there was the report of the firing of a gun at Mr. Blight's house:" he went out to ascertain the cause, but did not perceive any person coming from the premises; and he was in a situation in which, had the person who fired it attempted to make his escape, he must have observed him: it was about eight o'clock in the evening, and it was dark; but he was near enough to have seen any one run away or climb the wall.

Miss Ann Davis and Miss Martha Davis, sisters, who happened to be walking by the premises in a different direction from the last witness, stated that they also saw the flash and heard the report of a gun, and must have seen any person attempting to escape; but all was quiet, and they concluded that the gun was fired by some one on the premises.

After this evidence, to establish that the gun fired on the Thursday preceding the death of Mr. Blight was not by any stranger, but by the prisoner, witnesses were called to relate the circumstances which occurred on the 23d.

Mr.

Mr. Michael Wright stated that he was going past Mr. Blight's house a little after eight, when he heard the report of a pistol in the house; and having become acquainted, by the rumour, of the former attempt, he was induced to go up to the house with a view to offer his assistance. He knocked for some time, and was not admitted; but, insisting on having the door opened, Mr. Patch made his appearance, and began informing him what a dreadful accident had happened. The witness was impatient at hearing this story: he thought that some means should be rather adopted to pursue the murderer, and recommended Patch to commission him to apply at Bow-street, as an inquiry taking place instantly after the assassination would most probably be attended with success. Patch seemed reluctant, and thought that no good effect could result from it. The witness was rather indignant at his assistance not being accepted, and therefore went away.

Hester Kitchener's evidence applied to the two days. She stated that on the 19th she had been ordered by the prisoner to shut up the shutters of the house earlier than usual. Her master and mistress were then at Margate. At eight o'clock the prisoner sent her out for some oysters; and, as she returned, she heard the report of a gun: but through the court-yard, the only passage to the house, she did not see any one. When she saw Patch, he cried "O Hester, I have been shot at!" She rejoined, "Lord forbid!" They then looked for the ball, which she found. The witness continued to state that her master returned to town on the Monday morning; that in the evening he and the prisoner drank tea together in the back parlour, and afterwards had some grog. Her master was fatigued, heavy, and sleepy with his journey and the liquor. Patch came down in a hurry to her in the kitchen, and, complaining of a pain in his bowels, wanted a light to go into the yard. She gave it to him, as also a key of the counting-house, through which it was necessary he should pass. She heard him enter the back place and slam the door after him; immediately she heard the report of a pistol. Her master ran down into the kitchen, exclaiming "O Hester, I am a dead man!" and supported
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ed himself upon the dresser. She ran up to shut the door; and as she was half-way down the passage, on her return, she heard Patch knocking violently for admittance. He asked what was the matter. She told him; on which he went down and offered his assistance. He asked the deceased if he knew of any one who could owe him a grudge. Mr. Blight answered No, as he was not at enmity with any man in the world.

Mr. Christopher Morgan was passing by when the fatal shot was fired: he went to the house, and saw Mr. Blight lying in a wounded situation, and recommended Mr. Patch, in the first instance, to search the premises all over. Patch told him, and his friend Mr. Berry, who was with Mr. M. to go and search an old ship that was off the wharf, as he had reason to think that the perpetrator might have escaped there; for he heard a noise in that direction on the night when the gun was previously fired. They went, but found that the ship was lying at the distance of sixteen feet from the wharf; that it was low water; that from the top of the wharf to the mud was ten feet; that the soil was soft mud, and that any one who might attempt that way must have been up to his middle: besides the mud did not bear the appearance of any one having passed through it; he was therefore perfectly convinced that no one escaped over the wharf towards the water. Mr. Berry corroborated this evidence.

Six other persons, who happened to be in different directions leading from Mr. Blight's house to the public roads, most distinctly proved that, when the shot was fired which killed Mr. Blight, every thing was quiet on the outside of the premises; that there was no appearance of any person attempting to escape; and, if there had, that there was no possibility of his eluding observation.

The next series of evidence went to infer that the prisoner was carrying on a system of delusion and fraud against the deceased, in respect to certain pecuniary transactions between them. It was proved by Mrs. Blight, the deceased's widow, that her husband, who had fallen into some embarrassments, had, in order to mask his property, made a nominal assignment of it to Patch; but the

the assignment was not to be carried into effect unless the trustees of his creditors should, as he apprehended, become importunate. This confidential assignment Patch wished to convert into an absolute sale for consideration given on his part; but Mrs. Blight declared that he had never paid her husband any money, excepting 250l. part of 1,250l. the consideration for a share of his business.

The next strong branch of evidence referred to the stockings which the prisoner had on the night that Mr. Blight lost his life. It was proved that he generally wore boots; but the witnesses' memories enabled them to say that he had white stockings on during the evening of the 23d. Mr. Stafford, of the Police Office, stated that, on examining the bed-room of Mr. Patch, they were folded up like a clean pair; but that, on opening them, the soles appeared dirty, as if a person had walked in them without shoes. The inference from this was, that the prisoner had taken off his shoes, in order that he might walk out of the necessary without being heard by the maid.

The last important fact was the discovery of the ramrod of a pistol in the privy, and the proof that that place had not recently been visited by any person suffering under a bowel complaint. This, and a vast variety of circumstantial evidence, concluded the case on the part of the crown.

The prisoner, being called upon for his defence, delivered in a long elaborate address, supposed to have been written by his counsel, which he requested might be read by the officer of the court: it began by thanking the learned judge for moving his trial from a place where prejudice might have operated against him; complained much of that prejudice having been excited by premature reports in the public journals; and then entered into a general train of argument, inferring that, in a case of life and death, juries ought not to convict upon circumstantial evidence; the more especially where they appeared, as in the present case, so dubious. He stated that, whatever might be the result of their judgment upon the evidence, it was almost a matter of indifference to him on his own account; for he was borne down and subdued

duced by the unjust prejudices of the public, by the long imprisonment he had endured, and by the enormous expenses to which he had been subjected: but he had those relations who made life dear to him; he had children who looked to him for support, and who would not only be dishonoured, but ruined, by his death. The only evidence which he adduced was that of three persons, who spoke to his general character.

The Lord Chief Baron summed up the evidence in the most perspicuous manner, occupying nearly two hours in commenting upon every part of it.

The jury then retired for about a quarter of an hour, and, on their return, pronounced a verdict of "Guilty."

His lordship then proceeded to pronounce the awful sentence of the law:—He observed, that the prisoner had begun his career of guilt in a system of fraud towards his friend; he had continued it in ingratitude, and had terminated it in blood. He then directed that he should be executed on Monday, and that his body should be delivered for dissection.

Patch, who had the appearance of a decent yeoman, and was about thirty-six years of age, during the whole of the trial never betrayed the slightest symptom of embarrassment: his appearance evinced a seeming composure, which innocence alone could manifest, or the most consummate villainy could counterfeit. He also heard the dreadful sentence with a degree of sullen composure bordering upon apathy, as if he had previously made up his mind to the event. The execution was, however, deferred till the next morning (Tuesday), it being deemed advisable that he should suffer in common with a man and his wife, Benjamin and Sarah Herring, who had been convicted at Kingston, March 28, of coining, in order to obviate the inconvenience of having two public executions following each other so closely. It was in consequence of this suggestion of Mr. Ives to the Chief Baron (who, with the Dukes of Sussex and Gloucester, retired to his house after the trial) that his lordship was induced to order the respite, which he wrote thus on the margin of the first order for execution:—

“ Let execution be respited till Tuesday, the 8th day of April, 1806. “ A MACDONALD.”

It seems that Benjamin Herring and his wife had carried on the trade of coining to a great extent, at their own house in St. George's-in-the-Fields. On searching their premises, a complete set of coining implements, punches, aqua fortis, &c. were found, besides upwards of seventy shillings, a quantity of dollars, half-crowns, and sixpences, all ready for circulation.

The prisoner Benjamin, in his defence, said he was a wire and bird-cage maker, and that the implements found in his possession were necessary for the carrying on of that business. The jury, without hesitation, found both prisoners “ Guilty.”

But to return to Patch—This criminal, after condemnation, remained perfectly calm and unembarrassed. He slept well during the greater part of the Saturday night; rose at nine o'clock the next morning; breakfasted on tea and toast; and attended divine service at half past ten. About a quarter before eleven the Rev. Mr. Mann, the Ordinary, preached the condemned sermon, in a style the most impressive and affecting; to which Mr. Patch paid the necessary and becoming attention. On his return to his cell, the prisoner, for a few moments, looked steadfastly at Mr. Case, the turnkey, and then said, “ I am innocent,” but did not attempt to utter another word. At two o'clock he dined and made a hearty meal, and appeared as composed as usual during the remainder of the day. He continued to preserve a sullen silence until Monday afternoon, when that composure which marked his countenance, as well as his fortitude and cold apathy, forsook him. He was informed by the Ordinary of the gaol that his friends approached to take their last farewell of him for ever, when he gave up all hopes of a reprieve, and exclaimed “ Is no mercy to be expected ?” His relations, viz. his sister, who had lived with Mr. Blight, a younger brother, who bore a strong resemblance in person to the unfortunate man, and a brother-in-law, with his wife, a nephew, and another distant relation, were admitted to him, and remained with him until three o'clock, when

when they took their last farewell. Patch was now most sensibly affected, and the scene was truly distressing. He embraced each of his relatives, and wept bitterly, clinging to them until the moment had arrived when their absence was required. After this affecting scene Mr. Ives, the governor of the prison, went to his cell, and Patch here uttered an expression adequate to a confession of his guilt. He said "I have confessed my sins to God; man can give me no relief." This day he was also visited by the Rev. Mr. Mann, and three dissenting ministers. In their interviews with him he evinced the strongest proofs of a penitent sinner; but invariably declined to give any answer to the urgent entreaties of the clergymen to acknowledge the crime for which he was to die. Mr. Mann remained with him until a late hour on Monday evening. Mr. Graham, the magistrate who committed him to prison, was the last person admitted to see him on this night. Before they parted Mr. Patch took him by the hand, and said, emphatically; "We shall, I trust, meet in heaven." The three dissenting ministers remained with him all night, during the whole of which he appeared extremely penitent and devout. In the course of the night he took a few glasses of wine; and about two o'clock, having become much exhausted, he laid down upon his bed. The dissenting ministers remained by his side until four o'clock, when he arose, and drank two cups of tea, with which he appeared somewhat refreshed.

About half past six o'clock on Tuesday morning the Rev. Mr. Mann, and the curate of the Rev. Rowland Hill, came to the prison; and, after a short interview with Patch, they, and Herring and his wife, were conducted to the chapel. Patch and Herring went with the Rev. Mr. Mann to the altar, and resumed their devotions: the woman, being a Roman Catholic, went to the left side of the chapel, with a priest, the Rev. Mr. Griffiths.

At eight o'clock Patch and Herring received the sacrament. At thirteen minutes past eight Herring came out of the chapel into the prison, where Jack Ketch, of Newgate, was in waiting to knock off his irons. On his return to the chapel, Patch came out, at seventeen minutes

past eight, for the same purpose. He was dressed in a good suit of mourning, and appeared in excellent health. His complexion was florid, as usual; and he stood firm, and with great composure, while the hangman was tying his arms. After this process he returned with a firm step to the chapel, and resumed his devotions.

About five minutes before nine o'clock the high-sheriff demanded the bodies of the unfortunate sufferers; and immediately after they began to move in the usual order, followed by Mr. Ives, the keeper of the prison. When they got to the open yard Herring and his wife were placed on a sledge, and drawn to the entrance of the staircase leading to the apparatus for the execution, from which they ascended the stairs with as much firmness as could be expected. Patch displayed his usual intrepidity.

While Jack Ketch was fastening the ropes the Rev. Mr. Mann attended Patch, and, for the last time, attempted to draw from him a confession, but with no better success. The sheriff then went to him, and entreated him to confess; but he steadfastly refused. At this time the cap was drawn over his face, and every thing prepared to launch him into eternity. Apparently displeased at being pressed so much upon the subject, he now threw himself considerably back with impatience. From the violent motion of his body some of the spectators supposed that he meant to break his neck, as Abershaw did on Kennington-common; others apprehended that he was fainting away. Neither of these, however, appeared to be the case, as it was evidently the result of a wish to avoid all further entreaty.

Mr. Ives, observing Patch throw himself back, ran to him, and exclaimed "My good friend, what are you about?" Mr. Patch took him by the hand, and conversed with him for about a minute and a half; and, when he was loosing him, he parted his hand apparently with much reluctance. A great anxiety was, at this moment, expressed by the by-standers, to know whether Mr. Patch had confessed his guilt to Mr. Ives in this conversation. Mr. Ives answered, with great politeness, to all inquiries, that he could not at present divulge what
Mr.

Mr. Patch had communicated to him ; and he persevered in this determination, notwithstanding the pressing solicitation of one of the magistrates. He said, however, “ I believe him to be the man,” meaning the man who murdered Mr. Blight.

At five minutes past nine o'clock the sentence of the law was enforced by the falling of the drop.

The body of Patch, after hanging the usual time, was taken to the hospital in the prison, for the county surgeon, for the purpose of being dissected.

The multitude that assembled to witness this awful ceremony was said to be more considerable than even at the execution of Despard.

Patch was an athletic broad-shouldered man, about five feet seven inches high, and strong made in proportion. His florid looks never forsook him ; but these arose from his constitutional formation : his lips, however, were pale enough to indicate sufficiently the state of his mind.

WILLIAM HONEYMAN,

(*The young Swindler,*)

CONVICTED OF FORGERY AT THE LENT ASSIZES, 1806, FOR KENT, AND
EXECUTED UPON PENNENDEN-HEATH.

SELDOM have we presented a case with a malefactor so young, and yet so consummately artful. This juvenile adept was born at Portsmouth of creditable parents, and who, after giving him a good education, placed him as a midshipman in the royal navy. However, he had not been long on board the man of war to which he was appointed, then stationed at Sheerness, ere he deserted, and began, his career of vice at a tavern called the Silver Oar, at Rochester, before he had completed his sixteenth year. There he was invited by some gentlemen to partake of their dinner, which was no sooner over than they perceived he had no money, and appeared dejected ; and, upon interrogation, he confessed his name and needy circumstances. The company, much to their credit, agreed to supply

supply him with money, and he was kept there till his friends were made acquainted with his situation ; when, according to their desire, he was forwarded to London.

He returned some time after to the Silver Oar, saying he had been to sea, and ordered a dinner, to treat his former friends.

Afterwards he took a route to the west of England, following his nefarious practices. However, on the 18th of November, 1805, under the name of Alexander Innes, captain in the navy, he was brought to Marlborough-street police-office, in custody of an officer belonging to Surrey, to answer a charge preferred against him by a Mr. Jeff, a livery-stable keeper, in Silver-street, Golden-square.

Mr. Jeff stated that the prisoner called at his stables on the 9th day of November, representing himself as the person above described, and residing at No. 49, Howland-street, and hired a chestnut mare to go to Richmond. The mare was never returned to her owner ; and, after a week had elapsed, Mr. Jeff suspected he had been swindled. He consequently went to the given address, and had there further cause of suspicion ; for the house was a brothel, and he was only known to have slept there one night.

In consequence of some information Mr. Jeff had received he went to the house of an eminent tradesman in the Borough, where, it was said, the prisoner was known, having drawn money by bills, &c. Mr. Jeff was there informed of the circumstances alluded to, and that Capt. Innes had sent thither a mare from the country, which had been attended with unpleasant circumstances. The parties, however, said they knew but little of the prisoner.

He was detected by calling at the Gloucester Coffee-house, Piccadilly, which house he had frequented with a person of the name of Kennesley, who left it without discharging his bill. The prisoner called to inquire after his friend, and, on leaving the house, two of the waiters followed him, suspecting him to be the person advertised by Mr. Jeff. At a convenient spot near Vauxhall the waiters gave him in charge of an officer.

It was stated to the magistrates that the prisoner had
been

been at the Castle at Richmond, where the waiter was refused his bill; but, by assistance, the visitors were detained, and a watch was left as security for the amount.

Mr. Jeff had never heard of his mare, but it was reported she was at Andover, Hants. When at Richmond, on Sunday, at the Castle Inn, he was informed that a mare, answering the description of the one hired, was sold on the preceding Wednesday, at Croydon, to a butcher at Richmond; but he had not an opportunity of seeing her, the butcher being from home. On the prisoner being questioned respecting what he had done with the mare, he merely answered that he had spoken to Mr. Jeff on that subject. He was dressed in the first style of fashion, and his person was very well known in the lobby at the theatres.

The next day the concourse of people that assembled at Marlborough-street Office was immense. Several naval officers attended, for the purpose of proving that there were only two captains in the navy of the name of Innes: they were brothers, and gentlemen of the highest respectability; the one, Alexander, captain on board the *Eurus* frigate, in the Cove of Cork; and the other, John, a prisoner in France, having been taken in the *Ranger*.

Several persons intimated their intention of exhibiting charges against the prisoner on the next examination, which took place November 21. Numerous fresh charges were adduced against him; and it appeared by the evidence that an insinuating confident address, with a commanding person, had enabled him to enter the circles of gentlemen, whom he is said to have defrauded, as well as tradespeople, innkeepers, &c. in town and country.—The horse he hired of Mr. Jeff had been traced to George-yard, Drury-lane.

John Rich, hostler to Mr. Cartwright, Camden-place, Piccadilly, stated that the prisoner hired a brown gelding six weeks previously, in the absence of his master. He said he resided in St. James's-street; that he merely wanted to ride out for two or three hours, and on his return he would send the horse home by his servant. He, however, never returned, nor had the horse ever been heard of. A person in the office (Mr. Nuns) informed Mr. Cartwright that

that a horse answering the description he had given was left at his livery-stables, Vauxhall, on the 14th of October, and he believed by the prisoner. He hired a horse and chaise of Mr. Nuns, and left the horse in his care until he should return, which event never took place. The prisoner said his name was Becket, and that he resided at Gravesend. Mr. Nuns, finding the prisoner did not return, went to Gravesend, and Mr. Becket proved to be a banker, who informed him that a person answering the description of the prisoner had forged on his bank. Mr. Nuns had travelled three or four hundred miles after his horse and chaise; and at length, by an advertisement, he received a letter, stating that the horse was at Alton, in Hampshire, and the chaise was at Honiton, in Devonshire, the prisoner having left the horse as he had done at other places, and hired a fresh one.

It was proved by another witness that the prisoner had committed depredations in the west of England by representing himself as a Mr. Pigeon, son of Mr. Pigeon, belonging to a distillery firm in the Borough. By this imposition, affecting to be travelling on account of the firm, he was very successful in obtaining money by swindling bills, &c. In this part of the country he drove about in a post-chaise and four, associated with the best company, joined their hunting parties, and became the complete man of fashion. At Exeter he drove through the city, a week before the news of the victory over the combined fleets, as a naval officer with dispatches from the fleet. The gentlemen belonging to a subscription house, and the leading men of the city, desirous of hearing good news, politely requested to be informed if the news was good. The prisoner, who represented himself as the son of Lord Mulgrave, assured them it was good news, and that it was from the hero, Nelson. The gentlemen were desirous of further information; but, fearing to put the question too pointedly, they asked if it equalled the business of the Nile. The prisoner replied, "The Nile is a fool to it:" and he immediately drove off, having diffused joy throughout the ancient city of Exeter.

A number of other charges were preferred against him. A gentleman positively proved the prisoner to be an impostor

postor, in representing himself as Capt. Innes. The prisoner said his name was Innes, and he was addressed as a captain by naval characters. On being questioned by the magistrates if he was ever in the navy, and what rank he held, the prisoner replied "He was a midshipman in the *Magnanime*, of sixty-four guns, but he had not been in the service since last war. He was before that in the *Active*, of thirty-two guns." He was remanded again, to give country people an opportunity to attend; and, on the day appointed, the office was crowded so excessively, that many who repaired thither to take a view of the prisoner were disappointed.

Among other circumstances, Hamilton, the officer, said that he was authorized by the gentlemen of the Gravesend bank to state a circumstance that recently occurred there, the complainants being unable to attend this examination: the prisoner, in the name of Charles Young, presented to them a bill of exchange for 80*l.*, purporting to have been drawn upon Simmons and Co. at the Canterbury bank, for which he received cash and notes, and it was soon afterwards discovered to be a forgery.

There was also another serious charge against the prisoner, for a transaction during his tour in the west of England. It had been stated that the prisoner diffused joy throughout the city of Exeter, by proclaiming a victory, said to have been gained by the departed hero, Nelson, a week before that of Trafalgar. He also, it appeared, represented himself as the bearer of the joyful tidings when the glorious victory was obtained. Being on the Portsmouth road when Lord Fitzroy was travelling to the Admiralty with the important news, and having obtained some slight information respecting it, or at least that his lordship was going with dispatches to town, he immediately ordered a post-chaise and four, and was driven after the messenger at full speed. On his entering the town of Basingstoke his chaise was surrounded by the multitude, who were the more readily imposed on, as a ray of hope had spread itself that a victory had been gained. In the habit of a naval officer, the prisoner went to the bank, called himself Lord Fitzroy, drew 100*l.*

in his name, and gave a forged draft. He apologized to the gentlemen of the bank for the sudden intrusion, and alleged that his cash was insufficient to carry him to the Admiralty. This imposition was soon detected, the prisoner was followed, and the money recovered. On his being asked if he had any thing to say, he replied "he had not, in his present disagreeable situation." The magistrate observed that it would be necessary to remand the prisoner again, in order to give time to the people from the country to attend; when a gentleman from the Gravesend bank attended, and the prisoner was fully committed to take his trial, and soon after removed to Maidstone (the forgery having been done in Kent), where he was indicted March 13, 1806, for feloniously and falsely making, forging, and counterfeiting, and feloniously uttering and publishing, as true, at Gravesend, a certain false, forged, and counterfeited bill of exchange, for the sum of 80l., purporting to have been drawn by one Charles Young, and to be directed to Messrs. Simmons, Poley, and Co. at Canterbury, with intent to defraud John Brenchley, Charles Becket, and George Rich, of Gravesend, aforesaid.

He likewise stood indicted, upon the oaths of John Rich and others, with stealing one brown gelding, the property of Edward Cartwright.

He also stood indicted, upon the oath of Richard Nuns, with stealing at Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, one black mare, a chaise, and harness, his property.

On the first indictment it appeared he came to the Gravesend bank, and represented himself as a person under the tuition of Mr. Stevenson (steward to the Earl of Darnley) for a knowledge of agricultural improvement, which afterwards proved to be false. The fraud on the bank being substantiated by the clerk, the jury, after a little deliberation, found the prisoner guilty; and, being convicted upon the first charge, the judge would not try him on the others.

From the time of the judge's passing sentence on him, and informing him he could not expect any mercy, the crime being so great, he became much dejected, and behaved himself in a very becoming manner.

On

On the 28th of March the unfortunate prisoner wrote a letter from the cell to the Gravesend bank, acknowledging the crime laid to his charge, thanking the prosecutors for their humanity in recommending him to the judge for mercy, and requesting they would sign a petition to the king; which had been done before, but which the prisoner was not aware of. He stated, in his letter, that he was deranged at the time of committing the fact. He also said it had ever been his father's wish to train him in the world to friendly society.

He made the following speech at the place of execution, from a written paper, which he gave to a friend, upon his request:

“ For my own part, I confess, with the greatest contrition, the crime which has brought me to this horrid place, and admit the justice of my sentence, while I am sinking under its severity; and I earnestly exhort you all, my fellow-prisoners, and young men at liberty, to acknowledge the offences you have been guilty of, and to bequeath to your country that confidence in public justice, without which there can be neither peace nor safety in this world.

“ As few of you suffer for the first offences, it is necessary to inquire how far confession ought to be extended. Whatever good remains in our power we must diligently perform. We must prevent, to the utmost of our ability, all the evil consequences of our crimes. We must forgive all who injure us. We must, by fervency of devotion, and always praying to God in constancy and meditation, endeavour to repress all worldly passions; and generate in our minds that love of goodness, and hatred of sin, which may fit us for the society of heavenly minds; and, finally, we must commend and intrust our souls to Him that died for the sins of men, with earnest wishes and humble hopes that he will admit us with the labourers who entered the vineyard at the last hour, and associate us with the thief whom he pardoned on the cross.

“ Thus, we humbly trust, our sorrowful prayers and tears will be acceptable in his sight. Thus shall we be
2 u 2 qualified,

qualified, through Christ, to exchange this dismal body, and these uneasy fetters, for the glorious liberty of the sons of God, and then will our legal doom upon earth be changed into a comfortable declaration of mercy in the highest heaven, and all through the most precious and all-sufficient merits of the blessed Saviour of mankind.

“ I wish you all the happiness that this land affords, and the enjoyment of life in all its branches. You, my brothers and sisters, will, I hope, take caution of so young a man as I am, whose years are only eighteen—and to think that I should suffer this ignominious and awful death before so many of you ! Our happiness or misery only begins when we die.

“ It is but your sins that can make you afraid of dying. It concerns us more than our life is worth to know what will become of us when we die.”

This speech, which was spoken in a manly and distinct tone, made a deep impression on an unusual number of spectators (many of whom were soldiers). Shortly after he seemed to reflect on the jury, and the severity of the laws of his country, by saying “ So young a man as he was might have been useful by being sent abroad ;” because the petition had been presented, and interest made in vain, to his Majesty, to save his life. He behaved, however, with the greatest decorum at the place of execution, praying in a most penitent manner till the platform fell from under him.

“ Be thy pursuits, then, giddy youth,
“ The paths of industry and truth ;
“ For those, who follow wicked ways,
“ With shame must terminate their days.”

Along with the unfortunate Honeyman the following unhappy men also underwent the final sentence of the law:

James Danes, convicted of burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of the Rev. Joseph Andrews, at Marden, in the county of Kent, and stealing therefrom twenty shirts, 20l. in money, and other articles, to the amount of 50l.

Samuel

Samuel Clarke, alias Hagger, convicted of breaking into the shop of John Elliott, watchmaker, at Ashford, on the 25th of January, and stealing therein divers watches, chains, seals, &c. and of having the same in his possession.

John Staines, who was found guilty of stealing two Welsh heifers, the property of Edward Back, of Mer-sham.

Danes had been a smuggler, well known in the county of Kent, having lived at Trottescliffe, where he left a wife and four children.

Clarke, whose friends lived at Rochester, had been master's mate on board a man of war: his character was notorious, having, it is said, returned from transportation; he declared himself, however, innocent of the charge for which he was condemned.—Staines likewise made the same declaration.

These four malefactors died sincere penitents.

ANDREW AKOW,

(*A Chinese Sailor,*)

HANGED AT EXECUTION-DOCK, JULY 18, 1806, FOR MURDERING HIS COUNTRYMAN.

THE trial of this foreigner came on at the Admiralty Sessions, July 11, 1806, before Sir John Scott and Judge Le Blanc.

James Robert Oliver, second mate of the *Travers East-Indiaman*, stated that on the 24th of May the vessel was in the East-India docks: he had charge of the watch at twelve o'clock that night; the prisoner, who was taken on board at Bengal, was in his watch. The murdered man was named Anguin, a Chinese, who entered on board the vessel with the prisoner, and he officiated as cook. About two o'clock in the morning of the 25th witness heard a crying noise forward, which seemed to come from the fore-castle, but, on going thither, he found it proceeded from the fore-hatchway. Witness sent down two officers to see what was doing, when one of them shortly after called out "Murder has been committed!"

mitted!" Witness called up the surgeon, and, on going below himself, he observed the prisoner in custody of the officers he had sent below. He was covered with blood, and, on seeing the witness, he exclaimed, "Me kill Anguin! Anguin tell me lie; to-morrow you hang me Chinese fashion;" and he gave himself up to witness with the utmost composure. After having secured the prisoner, the witness proceeded to the fore-hatchway, where he observed the deceased lying, with his head nearly severed from his body, near his hammock. He had also many dreadful wounds in different parts of his body; and he expired immediately. Witness had not missed the prisoner more than five minutes before he heard the cries of the deceased. The deceased was of an entertaining disposition, and greatly beloved by the whole ship's company.

This testimony was corroborated by a number of witnesses, and the jury found the prisoner "Guilty."

He was sentenced to be executed the Monday following, but was respited till Friday, July 18, by Sir William Scott, in order that the opinion of the Privy Council might be taken on his case.

It having been the opinion of the Privy Council that this malefactor should suffer according to the sentence of the English law on Friday, the day appointed for the execution as above mentioned, he was accordingly conveyed in a cart from Newgate, for execution, at Execution-dock, pursuant to sentence. The wretched criminal was scarcely able to support his fate, and looked as if life had forsaken him previous to his arrival at the place of punishment.

He was dressed in a seaman's jacket and trowsers, and red cap. One of his countrymen supported him in the cart, and apparently imparted every consolation his dreadful situation demanded. After hanging the usual time the body was brought back to Newgate, and delivered to his friends; the remainder of the sentence, that his body be dissected, &c. having been remitted.

PHILIP MATSELL,

EXECUTED AUGUST 22, 1806, AT BIRMINGHAM, FOR FIRING AT AND WOUNDING T. TWYFORD, A WATCHMAN OF THAT TOWN.

THIS notorious culprit was convicted of maliciously firing at and wounding T. Twyford, a watchman, at the Snow-hill end of Great Charles-street, Birmingham; and for which offence he was hanged on a scaffold erected near the spot where he committed the crime.

The awful scene drew together an immense concourse of spectators; but, by the active exertions of the police, assisted by a detachment of the King's Own Dragoons, the utmost regularity and good order were preserved.

With regard to the unhappy criminal, we are sorry to state that his conduct, from the time of his being apprehended up to the fatal moment of his punishment, exhibited no signs of repentance. When passing through the town to the place of execution his countenance manifested the utmost indifference, and frequently was marked with a sneering smile.

When arrived at the gallows he resisted every endeavour to draw from him a confession of his guilt, declaring that he was not the man, but that he knew who was. He refused, for a long time, to join in prayer with the clergyman who attended him; but at length selected a prayer from the Communion Service.

Addressing himself to the wife of his brother, who was extremely distressed on the occasion, he asked her, abruptly, "What she cried for?" and when the executioner (who had also been condemned, but reprieved, and who was much more agitated than Matsell) was fixing the rope, Matsell desired him to be cautious how he placed it, as one side of his neck was rather sore.

The time of preparation being expired, he gave the signal by throwing up his handkerchief, when the waggon on which the platform was erected drew from under him, and he was launched into eternity.

JOHN

JOHN DOCKE ROUVELETT, alias ROMNEY,

EXECUTED AT ILCHESTER, AT THE SUMMER ASSIZES, 1806, IN
SOMERSETSHIRE, FOR FORGERY.

THIS notorious swindler was well known at Bath, where he passed for a West-Indian of considerable fortune and family: he was about forty years of age, and had the appearance of a Creole. He lived with a woman of the name of Elizabeth Barnet, who passed for his wife, particulars of whom will be given in the course of this narration. Having been arrested for debt, he was occasionally visited by this woman in the Fleet prison, and was afterwards removed, by Habeas Corpus, into Somertshire, on a charge of forgery. Conscious that Elizabeth Barnet was the only witness against him by whose evidence he could be convicted of the forgery as well as of perjury, another case also pending, Rouvelett having falsely sworn a debt against Mr. Durant, of the York Hotel, Albemarle-street, he had her taken up for a supposed robbery, and charged her with stealing his purse in the Fleet prison, containing forty guineas, half-a-guinea, and a valuable diamond. This case of singular atrocity came on at the Old Bailey, Saturday, July 5th, 1806. The young woman was fashionably attired, and her appearance excited universal sympathy. Rouvelett was brought up from Ilchester gaol, ironed, to prosecute on his indictment. An application was made to put off the trial, on the affidavit of the prosecutor, which stated that some material witnesses at Liverpool had not had sufficient notice to attend. The object of this attempt was to prevent the prisoner from appearing against him on his trial for forgery, as also to prevent her becoming a witness against him in the case of perjury, as already mentioned. The Recorder saw through the transactions, which he described as the most foul and audacious that ever were attempted. He ordered the trial to proceed. Rouvelett, who called himself a gentleman, stated that the prisoner was with him on the 11th of June, 1805, when he drew half-a-guinea from his purse, and gave it to a messenger; after which he put the purse, containing the property as stated in the indictment, into the pocket of a surtout coat, which



I.D.ROUVELETT.

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which was hanging up in the room, in which was the ring, worth 30*l*. There were no other persons in the room but the prisoner and himself; and in twenty minutes after she was gone, he missed his property from the great-coat pocket. He concluded that the money was safe, as the prisoner was gone to Dorant's hotel, Albermarle-street, and he did not suppose her capable of robbing him. She, however, absconded, and he never saw her again until she was arrested at his suit, jointly with Dorant, in an action of trover for 20,000*l*. for deeds, mortgages, and bonds, bearing interest, for which bail was given. He had no opportunity of bringing her to justice for the alledged robbery, he being himself a prisoner. (The Recorder here remarked, that the prosecutor could find the prisoner for a civil suit, although he could not find her for the criminal act). On the cross-examination of the prosecutor, he said he was born at St. Martin's, in the West Indies, and he had been at most of the islands in that quarter: his uncle was a planter in the West-Indies, and he lived on such means, whilst in England, as his family afforded him: he was brought up in Amsterdam, at the house of Mr. Hope, banker: after which he became a lieutenant in the British army (the 87th regiment). He knew Mr. Hope, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, and Mr. Hope knew him to be Mr. Rouvelett, of St. Martin's, for the two families had been closely connected for 100 years. He lived in England on remittances from his uncle, in goods or bills, but he had no property of his own. Messrs. Stephens and Boulton used to pay witness his remittances at Liverpool, but he could not tell who paid them in London. The Recorder observed, that the witness should not be pressed too far in giving an account of himself, as he (the prisoner) stood charged with forgery. On being asked, if he the witness, had not said he would be revenged on the prisoner, as she was intimate with Dorant, and charge her with a felony, he answered that he did not recollect having said so; but the question being pressed, he partly acknowledged it. The purse, which was empty, witness acknowledged was found under the pillow, on the 12th of June, the day after the alledged robbery, by his room chum, a man of the name

of Cummings. The prisoner was with him in prison after the 12th of June, although he had said she had absconded.

The Recorder did not suffer the cause to be farther proceeded in, and directed the jury to acquit the prisoner; and observed, this was the most foul charge he had ever heard of.

The disgust of the persons in Court was manifested by hisses and groans, as the fellow retired, in such a manner as baffled the efforts of the officers of justice for some time to suppress.

The trial of this malicious offender, who was thus happily disappointed in his views, came on at Wells, Tuesday, August 12, 1806, before Baron Thompson, and excited uncommon interest throughout the county of Somerset.

The prisoner, John Docke Romney, alias Rouvelett, was indicted for having feloniously and knowingly forged a certain Bill of Exchange, dated Grenada, 10th of November, 1804, for 420*l.* sterling, payable at nine months sight, to the order of George Danley, Esq. and drawn by Willis and Co. on Messrs. Child and Co. in London, with the forged acceptance of Messrs. Child and Co. on the face thereof, with intent to defraud Mary Simeon.

Mr. Burrough entered into the details of the case, which were afterwards substantiated by the evidence.

Mr. Philip George, the Younger, clerk to the Mayor of Bath, stated that the bill in question was delivered to him by the Mayor of Bath, and that he had ever since kept the bill in his own custody.

Mrs. Mary Simeon, dealer in laces, at Bath, was next called, and was proceeding to give her evidence, when Mr. Jekyl, counsel for the prisoner, submitted a legal objection to the Court. He observed a difference between the bill itself, and the bill as set forth in the indictment. The words to which he alluded were Willis and C. in the bill, whereas in the indictment they were set forth Willis and Co. After some discussion, Baron Thompson and the jury agreeing that there appeared no essential difference, as the letter *o* could be distinguished, the objection was over-ruled.

Mrs.

Mrs. Simeon deposed, that in April 1805, she lived at Bath; the prisoner at the bar came to her house on or about the 16th of March, 1805; having looked at several articles in which she dealt, he bought a fan, paid for it, and said he should bring his wife with him in the afternoon. He accordingly did so, and brought Elizabeth Barnet as his wife, Mrs. Romney; he asked whether Mrs. Simeon had a Brussels veil of 150 guineas value? The witness answered, she had not; he then bought two yards of lace, at four guineas a yard, and went away: This happened on a Saturday. The Monday following he came again, accompanied by his wife, looked at a lace cloak, at veils worth five and twenty guineas, and other goods, but did not buy any. In the course of the week he called again, and proposed to the witness to purchase a quantity of goods, if she would take a bill of a long date, accepted by Messrs. Child and Co. bankers, in London. Witness answered she had no objections to take a bill accepted by such a house. He returned in two or three days, and purchased articles to the value of about 140l. which with other goods afterwards bought, and with money advanced by her, made the prisoner her debtor to the amount of 299l. he bought all the articles himself, unaccompanied by his wife. In the month of April, between the 20th and 24th, the prisoner proposed paying for the different articles, and he brought his wife to the house; when a meeting took place between them and the witness, and her brother, Mr. Du Hamel. He said, "I am going to London, and I should like to settle with you: this is the bill I proposed to you to take; it is accepted by Child and Co. bankers, in London;" and turning over the bill, he added, "the indorser is as good as the acceptors."

The bill was here produced, and proved by Mrs. Simeon to be the same which the prisoner gave to her in April, 1805.

The witness then took the bill, and her brother, Mr. Du Hamel, paid to him for her 35l. which, with the articles previously bought, made the whole of the prisoner's debt to her 299l. He wrote before her on the bill the name of John Romney, as his name. He afterwards

went to London by the mail. She sent the bill the next day to London.

The conversation which passed between her and the prisoner, in the presence of her brother and Elizabeth Barnet, was entirely in the French language. He left his wife at her house, where she slept. While he was absent, the witness received intelligence from London that the bill was a forgery, and she instantly wrote a letter to the prisoner, informing him of it. He came to Bath in consequence of the letter, late of a Sunday night, and a meeting took place then at her house between him, his wife, herself, her brother, and her solicitor, Mr. Luke Evill, of Bath. The conversation then passed in English. Several questions were put to the prisoner by herself and by Mr. Evill. Mr. Evill asked him, whether he had any business with W. A. Bailey, the indorser, which induced him to take the bill. He said Mr. Bailey had sold some sugar for him. She asked him if Bailey lived in London; he replied, at some inn or coffee-house, the name of which she did not recollect. He was then asked in what island or islands Mr. Bailey's property was situated: he mentioned two or three islands in the West-Indies, but he did not know in which of them Mr. Bailey at that time was. The prisoner then enquired where the bill was; and being informed by the witness that it was in London, he said she must write to get it sent back. She, however, declared that such an application would be unavailing, and the prisoner pressed her to go to London herself. She refused to go alone, and he entreated Mr. Evill to accompany her, saying that he would give Mr. Evill 20*l.* to defray the expenses of the journey, which he accordingly did. She set out at ten o'clock that night, accompanied by Mr. Evill, and obtained the bill from Messrs. Sloper and Allen, in whose custody it was, by paying three hundred guineas, which was all the money she then had at her banker's. She brought the bill back to Bath, having stopped but one day in London; but the prisoner was not at Bath when she returned. He had left some property at her house with his wife, who had removed from Sidney-House, with his clothes, &c. The bill remained after this in her custody about a twelvemonth, and

and was given up to Mr. Evill by her brother. Mr. Dorant paid the whole of the debt due by the prisoner, on the 6th of May, 1805, a few days after the prisoner finally left Bath.

Upon the cross-examination of Mrs. Simeon, it appeared, that she considered the prisoner and Elizabeth Barnet as man and wife. It was not until May 1806, that she appeared before the Mayor of Bath, against the prisoner, whom she knew to have been in the Fleet-prison. She did not go before the magistrate at the solicitation of Mr. Dorant, nor did she at any time, nor on any account, receive any money from Dorant, but what was actually and fairly due to her by the prisoner.

Mr. Du Hamel, brother of Mrs. Simeon, corroborated all the principal facts stated by his sister.

Mr. Whelan deposed, that he was a clerk in the house of Messrs. Child and Co. He had filled that situation for about nine years ; and, from his knowledge of the business, he was enabled to state their manner of accepting bills. The house had no correspondence whatever at Grenada by the name of Willis and Co. and the acceptance, which appeared on the face of the bill, was not the acceptance of Messrs. Child and Co.

Mr. Comyn was next called, but his evidence was not material.

Mr. Luke Evill, solicitor for the prosecution, stated, that he had sent the bill from Bath to his agent in London, for the purpose of its being delivered to Mr. Dorant.

Elizabeth Barnet was next called. She deposed, that she became acquainted with the prisoner in the month of September, 1804, when at Liverpool. About a fortnight after she first saw him she began to live with him, and continued till the 16th of June, 1805 ; during all that period she passed under the name of Mrs. Romney. She left Liverpool, in the month of January, 1805, and came to London with the prisoner. They then took lodgings at Mr. Dorant's-Hotel, in Albermarle-street. The account he gave of himself to her was, that he was a West-Indian planter, and that he had estates in Martinique and St. Kitt's. They remained between two and three months at Mr. Dorant's Hotel, during which time they were not visited

visited by any body except a Mr. Hope, whom she remembered seeing with the prisoner. This Mr. Hope was not represented to her as being from Holland. She accompanied Mr. Romney to Bath, and on their arrival there they lodged at the White-Hart Inn, for about a fortnight, previous to her lodging at Madame Simeon's. Soon after their arrival at the White-Hart, she went along with the prisoner to Madame Simeon's to look at some laces and a black cloak. None of these articles, however, were purchased at that time by the prisoner, they being afterwards bought when she was not present. She heard the prisoner state to Madame Simeon, that he would give her a Bill of Exchange, accepted by Child and Co. of London. She did not then see any bill in his possession, but saw him writing one three days afterwards, when he sent the witness for some red-ink. She brought it to him, when he was still writing on the same piece of paper, and he soon afterwards wrote thereon with the red-ink, and put it up into his pocket-book without saying any thing. The next day he told her she must go and walk with him to Madame Simeon's, as he was going to pay her for some articles he had bought, which the witness had by that time got sent home to her. She accordingly accompanied him to Madame Simeon's shop, where she saw that lady, and her brother, a Mr. Du Hamel. A conversation then took place betwixt them, which being entirely in French, she did not understand. She, however, saw a paper given by the prisoner to Madame Simeon, which he took out of his pocket-book. This was the same paper which she had formerly seen him writing. A good deal of conversation ensued after the bill was put down, and she then saw Romney put his name to it. The bill in question was here shewn to the witness, and she distinctly identified it as being the same one she had formerly seen the prisoner write upon with red ink, and afterwards indorse with his name. Two or three days afterwards the prisoner left Bath for London, and the witness remained at Madame Simeon's. He returned on the Sunday night following, and remained at Madame Simeon's till next day. She observed that he was then very much disturbed, and she enquired the reason. The prisoner answered, by saying,
"He

“He must be hanged.” He asked her to fetch him his writing-desk, which she did. He then took out a large parcel of papers, and burnt them. She had no opportunity of seeing what those papers were. She asked him, “Were the papers any harm? He said, Yes; and that there was a paper which must not be seen. He further desired her to go to such and such a trunk, and there she would find a plate, which he wished her to take the first opportunity of throwing into the river. This plate she found without any thing with it, and she put it into her own trunk amongst her wearing-apparel. He wrote her a letter afterwards from Chippingham, requesting her “to remember the river.” (This letter not being produced, no interrogations were put concerning it). She had not an opportunity of throwing this plate into the river, as she never went out but under Madame Simeon’s protection. She never lived with the prisoner after that day, the 6th of June, 1805. She, however, remembered visiting him in the Fleet-Prison. She was soon afterwards arrested at Bath, at the prisoner’s instance, for the sum of 20,320*l*. and carried to Winchester-goal, and afterwards removed to the King’s Bench. She saw the prisoner on this occasion, and again at the Old-Bailey, when he was examined as a witness against her on her trial. He then charged her with having robbed him on the 11th June, 1805, of forty guineas and a diamond ring, when he was in the Fleet-prison; this charge was totally without foundation, as was also the alledged debt of 20,320*l*. She never had any transactions in her life to which such a charge could refer. She heard him also give his evidence at Westminster-Hall.

On her cross-examination she deposed, that her real name was Elizabeth Barnet. She is the daughter of a farmer in Shropshire, from whom she had had a plain education. She left her father when nineteen years of age, and went to Liverpool, where she lodged with a Mrs. Barns: she lived in Liverpool about nine or ten months. After she had left off seeing Mr. Rouvelett, in the Fleet, she lodged at a Mr. Fox’s, in Henrietta street, Covent-garden, for seven or eight weeks. She afterwards went to Bury-street.

To

To some additional interrogatories by Mr. Burrough, this witness further deposed, that the prisoner Romney sued out a writ against her for 1200*l.* exclusive of the sum before mentioned. This was after she had ceased to visit him in prison, and had gone to reside at her father's, and it was also previous to the arrest for the 20,320*l.* already taken notice of. No demand was made against her by the prisoner, when she visited him in the gaol. She is now about to return to her father's, and he knows of her intention to do so. She has three sisters and a brother, who were all residing with her father when she first left home. When she was arrested for the 20,320*l.* she was examined before the Mayor of Bath. What she related concerning the bill in question, she most solemnly declared was the perfect truth.

On the interrogatories of Mr. Baron Thompson, the learned judge, this witness added, that she could read writing pretty well: when she brought the red-ink to the prisoner, she remembered asking him what he had written, and he said he was drawing on Child and Co. She then observed to him, that what he had written with the red ink looked very handsome: this made her perfectly certain as to the bill produced on this trial being the identical bill she had seen the prisoner writing. Mr. Romney at that time thought she could not read writing: he was at that time teaching her to write his name as he did, and she made considerable progress in imitating his hand. The bill upon which he wrote across with the red-ink, was printed (meaning engraved) exactly as the one now produced. The next day, when she saw the bill given by the prisoner to Madame Simeon, she particularly remarked the date upon it being the same as that she had formerly seen.

The prisoner was called upon for his defence, and, apparently with considerable confidence and firmness, addressed the court as follows:

The circumstances attending the bill for which he stood charged he could very well explain: about the month of June, 1803, a quantity of coffee, rum, and sugar, the produce of his estates in the West-Indies, were sold by his agent, a Mr. M'Claurin, to a gentleman of the
name

name of William Anthony Bailey, for which he (Mr. Bailey) gave a bill of exchange, drawn by the house of Calvert and Simpson, of St. Christopher's, in the West-Indies, upon the house of Bond and Proctor, at Lancaster, at six months' date, for 218*l.* 19*s.* This bill he (the prisoner) consented to take as payment of the produce sold; and coming to England upon business, he brought it with him. On being presented to the house of Bond and Proctor, acceptance was refused, and it was therefore noted, and returned to his agent in the West Indies. in the year 1804, who, meeting with Mr. Bailey at St. Bartholomew's, received in lieu of the said bill a bond for 300*l.* to answer the damage arising from the expense of protesting, &c, as well as the original sum. This bond was transmitted to him by his agent, who advised at the same time, that Mr. Bailey would be in England, in the end of September, 1804, and that the transaction could be settled with himself. On Mr. Bailey's arrival in London, January, 1805, he (Romney) received a letter from him, addressed to him when at Liverpool, informing him of his readiness to settle the business. He (the prisoner) accordingly waited on Mr. Bailey at his lodgings, Craven-street, Strand, when he offered him some other bills of exchange, drawn and accepted by other houses in England, which he (the prisoner) did not object to, provided he knew the acceptors. Several bills were then produced, and among others, that one in question for 420*l.* which he consented to take from him, and pay him the difference, which amounted to 139*l.* 7*s.* The bill was then indorsed by Mr. Bailey to him, on his assurance that it was a good and valid draft on Messrs. Child and Co. It having then about seven or eight months to run, it became then in a manner useless to him, as he could not get it discounted. Happening to be at Bath, he offered it to Mrs. Simeon; she made no objection to take it in payment of an account run up to 130*l.* by the young woman who had accompanied him there. Mrs. Simeon agreed to account to him for the proceeds. Having occasion to go to London upon his business, Mrs. Simeon offered him the use of an apartment for his trunks, &c. which he gladly accepted of, leaving the young woman under the care of Mrs. Simeon.

He was then lodging at Sidney-house ; and as he did not think it safe to leave his effects at a public hotel, he removed them to Mrs. Simeon's house, in the Grove, Bath, in his own carriage, and by his own servants. As he could not get a large Bank of England note for 100*l.* broke or changed into small notes, he applied to Mrs. Simeon, who accommodated him with the loan of 30*l.* in small Bank of England notes, and at the same time he indorsed the bill for 420*l.* to that lady, in the presence of her brother, who offered him more money in country bank-notes, which he refused, as he only wanted so much as to pay the expenses of his journey to London. After leaving his address with Mrs. Simeon, he was accompanied by her brother to the mail-coach. The address he left was, "Dorant's-hotel, or at Harman and Co's Old-Jewry." After being a few hours in town, he was arrested at the suit of his jeweller, Mr. Davis, of Sackville-street, for a sum of nearly 700*l.* which he had refused to pay, on account of the greater part of the charge being for diamonds, sent to him at Bath, against his positive orders.

Mr. Dorant, the hotel-keeper, offered, unsolicited, to become his bail in the action, so that he was released from the lock-up house, and went to Dorant's, where he found a letter from Mrs. Simeon, apprising him of the bill being a forgery, and requiring his return to Bath, or to advise her what she was to do in the business. He was then very ill of a fever, created by the agitation of having been arrested ; but, notwithstanding his situation, he immediately set out for Bath, after writing her an answer by the mail, two or three hours after he had received her letter. On seeing Mrs. Simeon and her brother, the forgery became the subject of discussion. He avowed that he was then ready to reclaim the indorsement, and he tendered back to Mrs. Simeon the 30*l.* or 35*l.* which he had borrowed of her. She appeared to expect that he would lend her about 430*l.* which he resisted, as he had not so much money about him. He told her solicitor, who was present, that he was perfectly ready to account for the bill having come into his possession : and, therefore, that he had little to apprehend from any criminal prosecution by Messr. Child and Co. He referred Mrs. Simeon and her

her brother to Mr. Hope, of Harley-street, and to Messrs. Harman and Co. of the Old Jewry, for his character, he being personally known to them. He had also recommended to Mrs. Simeon and her solicitor to make the necessary inquiries respecting the bill; and, therefore, wished them to go to London, and had readily paid their expenses. He also observed, as a proof of his innocence, that he might, when in the rules of the Fleet, have made his escape, had he been conscious of any guilt; and concluded his defence by a long detail of circumstances, for the purpose of shewing that the prosecution was founded in malice. The only witness called upon in part of the prisoner was George Fox. It appeared, that Elizabeth Barnet had lodged at his house, in Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, about two months; he was a tailor and draper. Baron Thompson summed up in a very able manner, and recapitulated, with great minuteness, the whole of the evidence. The jury having consulted for a few minutes, returned a verdict of—Guilty of forging the acceptance, and of uttering it, knowing it to be forged.

The trial lasted nearly twelve hours, and the court was filled in every part. Among the audience were the first characters in the country. This unfortunate but notorious offender was executed at Ilchester, pursuant to his sentence, September 3, 1806. He was dressed in a blue coat with metal buttons, striped trowsers, green slippers, and a fur cap.

His last days were chiefly spent in writing letters, many of which he delivered to Mr. Broderip, the under sheriff, requesting they might be sent to the several persons to whom they were addressed, in England, and the West-Indies. He declared his being guiltless to the last.—After the usual time spent in devoutly praying under the gallows, he said a few words to the populace, entreating their prayers in his behalf, declaring that he died in peace with all the world, but still persisting in his innocence.—As soon as the cap was drawn over his face, he instantly dropped his handkerchief, and was launched into eternity.

ROBERT SMITH,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, FOR A NEW SPECIES OF ROBBERY.

THIS singular robber was a Scotchman, and one of those adventurers, who, ingenious in wickedness, devise new plans of depredation, and make the industrious, whose hard earnings they enjoy, the chief objects of their prey.

The mode of robbery, which this man adopted, was that of employing a hackney coach to drive him to some outlet, and then robbing the coachman in the first lonesome place he came to, in which for some time he was too successful. This trade he commenced early in the month of March, 1803, when being genteelly dressed, at night about ten o'clock, he hired a hackney coach at Charing cross, and ordered the coachman to drive to St. John's Farm, near the one mile stone, on the Edgware road. When the coach got to the top of the lane leading to St. John's Farm, Smith pulled the string, and told the coachman to let him get out, for he had passed the house he wanted to go to; upon which the coachman got off his box, and let him out of the coach. Smith then asking what his fare was, he told him five shillings and sixpence; when he put his hand into a side-pocket, pulled out a pistol, and swore he would immediately shoot him, if he did not deliver his money, which the coachman complied with. Smith then demanded his watch, which the coachman likewise delivered, and with which he made his escape across some fields. Monday night (March 6) about eleven o'clock, he also hired another coach, and ordered the coachman to drive to St. George's Row, on the Uxbridge road. On the coach arriving at that place, the man got out, and with horrid threats demanded the coachman's money; at the same time presenting a very long pistol to his breast, and slightly wounding him in the side with a tuck stick. The coachman delivered his money, amounting to two seven shilling pieces, and eight shillings and sixpence in silver.—The robber, on parting, told the coachman if he attempted to pursue him he would shoot him. But his career did not last long, for on Sunday night, March 20, about
ten

ten o'clock, as Thomas Jones, and others of the patrol, were on duty in the King's Road, they met Smith, whom they questioned as to his business, &c. and he not giving a satisfactory account, one of the patrol put his hand on his breast, and discovered a pistol.

On Monday morning he was brought to Bow-street, and underwent an examination; when the hackney-coachman, who was robbed near St. John's Farm, attended, and a pawnbroker producing a watch, agreeable to one of the duplicates, he positively identified the watch, and also the person to be the robber.

T. Jones (another hackney-coachman who was robbed in Maiden-lane) attended, and likewise identified a watch produced by a pawnbroker, and the person of the prisoner. The prisoner refused to give any name, or to give any account of himself. He gave the names of Gordon and Smith when he pledged the watches. On his re-examination, in addition to the charges before exhibited against him,

Francis Treadwell, another driver of a hackney-coach, stated how he had robbed and wounded him.

Also John Chilton, a porter at Mr. Spode's Staffordshire warehouse, swore, that on the evening of the 14th instant, about eight o'clock, the prisoner stopped and robbed him of three shillings and sixpence, near Bayswater, and slightly wounded him on the breast with a tuck stick.

The driver of another hackney-coach identified the prisoner, as having robbed him a short time since, near Wandsworth, Surrey.

On his trial, Francis Treadwell swore, that on the night of the 6th of March last, he was hired at Charing-Cross, by the prisoner, who ordered him to drive to Bayswater, where he robbed him of twenty-two shillings and sixpence, presenting a pistol and a tuck-stick, and slightly wounding him in the side with the latter. Treadwell had known the prisoner upwards of four years, (but was not, he believed, recollected by him,) first when he was an artillery-man, and afterwards as his fellow-prisoner in the King's Bench.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and the jury pronounced
a verdict

a verdict according with his own confession, and the evidence before them. He pleaded, however, for mercy, on the ground of its being a first offence ; but Mr. Justice Heath observed, that his plea could not be listened to, for that there were five other indictments against him for similar offences, and a sixth for firing at a person with intent to rob. This last offence, however, the prisoner denied.

He was executed at the front of the Debtor's door, in the Old Bailey, June 8, together with Abraham Nicholas, a person who had been employed in the General Post Office, and was convicted of having secreted, on the 22d of the preceding January, a letter containing a 10*l.* note, two 2*l.* notes, and five shillings in silver, the property of Joseph Goldsmith ; and Peter Gregory, who was convicted (April 25) of having about that day twelvemonth uttered a 1*l.* Bank note, knowing it to be forged. Nicholas was recommended to mercy by the jury, on account of his former good conduct ; but the magnitude of his offence rendered the recommendation unavailing.— Gregory had been tried upon another indictment of a similar nature, but acquitted from a deficiency in the chain of evidence. These three malefactors conducted themselves in a manner becoming their awful situation. Few persons attended the execution.

JOHN HOLLOWAY and OWEN HAGGERTY,

EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE, FEBRUARY 22, 1807, FOR MURDER.

THE fatal accident which happened on the spot, and at the moment of the execution of these men, by which more than forty people lost their lives, and many more were terribly bruised, will cause their memory, more than their crimes, to remain a dreadful warning unto many generations. Their whole case, indeed, was attended with singular and awful circumstances. Even of their guilt many entertained doubts, and which are not entirely removed, though no further discovery has been made respecting the horrid deed. Their conviction rested, certainly, upon the evidence of a wretch as base as themselves,



J. HOLLOWAY.

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selves, who stated himself to have been their accomplice ; but the public indignation against them was excited to such a pitch, it is not to be wondered at that a jury pronounced them guilty.

On the 6th of November, 1802, Mr. John Cole Steele, who kept the Lavender Warehouse, in Catharine-street, Strand, was murdered, with much barbarity, on Hounslow Heath, and his pockets rifled of their contents. The murderers escaped ; and, though rewards were offered for their apprehension, no discovery was made. Every search had been made by the officers of the police after them ; several loose characters were apprehended on suspicion, but discharged on examination, and all hopes had been given up of tracing the murderers—when a circumstance occurred about four years afterwards, which led to the apprehension of John Holloway and Owen Haggerty.—A man of the name of Benjamin Hanfield, who had been convicted at the Old Bailey, of grand larceny, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.* He was conveyed on board a hulk at Portsmouth, to await his departure for New South Wales ; but having been taken with a severe illness, and tortured in his mind by the recollection of the murder, about which he constantly raved, he said he wished to make a discovery before he died. A message was immediately dispatched to the police magistrates at Bow-street, to communicate the circumstance, and an officer was sent to bring him before them. When he was brought on shore, they were obliged to wait several days, his illness not permitting his immediate removal. On his arrival in town, the magistrates sent him, in custody of an officer, to Hounslow Heath. He there pointed out the fatal spot where the murder was perpetrated, and related all the circumstances which he alleged to have attended it ; and as his evidence implicated Haggerty and Holloway, measures were taken to apprehend them. Several private examinations of all the parties took place. Hanfield was admitted king's evidence,

* He was found guilty of stealing, on the 5th of July, 1806, a pair of children's shoes (value two shillings) the property of John Smith, Shoemaker, White Cross-street.

and the public once more cherished a hope that the murderers would meet the punishment they deserved.

Monday, February 9, being the day appointed for the final and public examination of the reputed perpetrators of this atrocious murder, Holloway and Haggerty were brought up before Joseph Moser, Esq. the sitting magistrate at the police-office, Worship-street, charged with wilfully murdering Mr. J. C. Steele, on Saturday night, the 6th of November, 1802, on Hounslow Heath.

There was a great body of evidence adduced, none of which tended materially to criminate the prisoners, except that of Hanfield, the accomplice, who, under the promise of pardon, had turned king's evidence.

The prisoners denied having any knowledge whatever of the crime laid to their charge, but heartily hoped that punishment would come to the guilty.

The magistrates, however, after maturely considering the whole of the evidence adduced, thought proper to commit the prisoners fully for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at the Old Bailey, and bound over no less than twenty-four persons to appear and give evidence on the trial.

Such was the eager curiosity of the public to know the issue of this trial, which came on February 20, 1807, before Sir Simon Le Blanc, Knight, that the whole Court and area of the Old Bailey was greatly crowded.—When put to the bar, Holloway appeared to be about forty years of age, of great muscular strength, tall, and of savage, brutal, and ferocious countenance, with large thick lips, depressed nose, and high cheek bones. Haggerty was a small man, twenty-four years of age.

The first witness called was Mr. Meyer, the brother-in-law to the murdered Mr. Steele, who deposed, that the deceased left his house in London, on the 5th of November, 1802, giving his family to understand that he should return on the next day. He proceeded to Felt-ham that night, where he had a house and garden, to grow and distil lavender, which he left on Saturday evening, for the purpose of returning to London, which he never reached. His long absence caused alarm in his family, and a number of persons were dispatched in different directions



THE MURDER OF MR STEELE.

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directions in search of him. At length his body was found in a ditch, shockingly disfigured by wounds, and a leathern strap tied very tight round the neck ; by the side of the body was found a large bludgeon, a pair of old shoes, an old hat, trimmed with worsted binding. At some distance on the other side of the road were discovered several marks of blood ; and the body seemed to have been dragged some distance from the spot where the murder had been committed.

Mr. H. Manny was next called. He said that he was inspector to the works of the late Mr. Steele, at Feltham, at the time this transaction took place. He well recollected that Mr. Steele, the deceased, was there on Saturday the 6th of November, and that he left Feltham about seven o'clock in the evening, with the intention of returning to town. This witness now entered into a description of his dress, which corresponded with the account given before the coroner.

William Pugh, who was next called, said, that in the month of November, 1802, he was, in consequence of a report that the deceased was missing, employed to search for the body ; that accordingly himself, with several others, entered upon a strict search, in which they were ultimately successful. That the body was found lying at the bottom of a ditch near a clump of trees, a short distance from the barracks. The witness described very minutely the position of the body, and the wounds that were at first perceptible.

Mr. H. Frogley, a surgeon, of Hounslow, was employed to examine the body at the time it lay at the Ship public-house for the coroner's jury ; and he gave it as his decided opinion, that Mr. Steele certainly died in consequence of the violent bruises he received. The witness examined the body of the deceased, and found not only an extensive fracture on the forehead, sufficient to occasion death, with laceration of the ligaments, but also a great laceration on the back part of the head, and some severe bruises on the upper part of the right arm. Indeed the horrid and inhuman perpetrators of this atrocious deed seemed to have exercised their utmost cruelty on the unfortunate victim, who must, for some consi-

derable time after they left him, have remained in a state of miserable suffering. For the better illustration of the testimony adduced, a sketch of Hounslow Heath (by Mr. Kinnaird) was now produced in Court.

The king's pardon, under the Great Seal, to Hanfield, alias Enfield, remitting his sentence of transportation for seven years, for a larceny, which he had been convicted of, and restoring him to his competency as a witness, was read.

Benjamin Hanfield then deposed nearly as follows :—

“ I have known Haggerty eight or nine years, and Holloway six or seven. We were accustomed to meet at the Black Horse and Turk's Head public-houses, in Dyot-street. I was in their company in the month of November, 1802. Holloway, just before the murder, called me out from the Turk's Head, and asked me if I had any objection to be in a good thing. I replied I had not. He said it was a “ *Low Toby*,” meaning it was a footpad robbery. I asked when and where. He said he would let me know. We parted, and two days after we met again, and Saturday the 6th of November was appointed. I asked who was to go with us ? He replied, that Haggerty had agreed to make one. We all three met on the Saturday, at the Black Horse, when Holloway said, our business is to “ *sarve*” a gentleman on Hounslow Heath, who I understand travels that road with property. We then drank for near three or four hours, and about the middle of the day we set off for Hounslow. We stopped at the Bell public-house, and took some porter. We proceeded from thence upon the road towards Belfont, and expressed our hope that we should get a good booty.— We stopped near the eleventh mile-stone, and secreted ourselves in a clump of trees. While there, the moon got up, and Holloway said, we had come too soon. After loitering about a considerable time, Holloway said he heard a footstep, and we proceeded towards Belfont. We presently saw a man coming towards us, and, on approaching him, we ordered him to stop, which he immediately did. Holloway went round him, and told him to deliver. He said we should have his money, and hoped we would not ill use him. The deceased put his hand

in his pocket, and gave Haggerty his money. I demanded his pocket-book. He replied that he had none. Holloway insisted that he had a book, and if he did not deliver it he would knock him down. I then laid hold of his legs. Holloway stood at his head, and said if he cried out he would knock out his brains. The deceased again said he hoped we would not ill use him. Haggerty proceeded to search him, when the deceased made some resistance, and struggled so much, that we got across the road. He cried out severely; and, as a carriage was coming up, Holloway said, "Take care, I will silence the b——r," and immediately struck him several violent blows on the head and body. The deceased heaved a heavy groan, and stretched himself out lifeless. I felt alarmed, and said, "John, you have killed the man:" Holloway replied, that it was a lie, for he was only stunned. I said I would stay no longer, and immediately set off towards London, leaving Holloway and Haggerty with the body. (The annexed engraving will give the reader a more comprehensive view of this part of the evidence.) I came to Hounslow, and stopped at the end of the town for near an hour. Holloway and Haggerty then came up, and said they had done the trick, and, as a token, put the deceased's hat into my hand. The hat Holloway went down in was like a soldier's hat. I told Holloway it was a cruel piece of business, and that I was sorry I had any hand in it. We all turned down a lane, and returned to London. As we came along I asked Holloway if he had got the pocket-book. He replied, it was no matter, for, as I had refused to share the danger, I should not share the booty. We came to the Black Horse, in Dyot-street, had half a pint of gin, and parted. Haggerty went down in shoes, but I don't know if he came back in them. The next day I observed Holloway had a hat upon his head, which was too small for him. I asked him if it was the same he got the preceding night. He said it was. We met again on the Monday, when I told Holloway that he acted imprudently in wearing the hat, as it might lead to a discovery. He put the hat into my hand, and I observed the name of Steele in it. I repeated my fears. At night Holloway brought

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the hat in a handkerchief, and we went to Westminster Bridge, filled the hat with stones, and, having tied the lining over it, threw it into the Thames."

The witness being cross-examined by counsel for the prisoners, said, he had made no other minutes of the transactions he had been detailing, than what his conscience took cognizance of. It was accident that led to this disclosure. He was talking with other prisoners in Newgate of particular robberies that had taken place; and the Hounslow robbery and murder being stated amongst others, he inadvertently said, that there were only three persons who knew of that transaction. The remark was circulated and observed upon, and a rumour ran through the prison that he was about to turn "*nose*;" and he was obliged to hold his tongue, lest he should be ill used. When at Portsmouth on board the hulks, the compunctions of conscience came upon him, and he was obliged to dissipate his thoughts by drinking, to prevent him from divulging all he knew. He admitted that he had led a vicious life, that he had been concerned in several robberies, and had entered and deserted from several regiments. He had served in the East and West London Militias, had enlisted into the 9th and 14th Light Dragoons, and had been in the Army of Reserve. He added, that he was ashamed and sorry at what he had been, and would endeavour to mend his life in future.

John Vickery stated, that he had been sent to Portsmouth to bring up Hanfield who was then confined on board the hulks, waiting to be transported with others, pursuant to his sentence. He was immediately delivered into his custody, and they returned to London. As they passed across the heath of Hounslow, on the top of the coach, Hanfield pointed to a spot near a clump of trees, just at the eleventh mile-stone, which he said was the place where the murder had been committed; but they had then no farther conversation on the subject, as they were surrounded by people on the top of the coach. Hanfield, on his arrival in town, underwent an examination; in consequence of which, he and the witness went together to Hounslow. They stopped at the Bell Inn, whence they proceeded to the heath: when Hanfield again pointed
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ed out the place where the crime was perpetrated, which the witness thought exactly the same as that pointed out by the former witnesses, detailing the circumstances of the murder, previous to his escape from his companions, in almost the same words as he had described them to the Court. The witness and he returned to town. Soon after the witness apprehended Holloway at Brentford, during the last election, and brought him to town. When he was examined before the presiding magistrate of Worship-street office, he declared he was perfectly innocent; but added, "if they would let him go, he would down on his knees to both the magistrates and the witness." He was remanded for further examination.

The witness went down to Deal, where he apprehended the prisoner Haggerty, on board the Shannon frigate, as a marine.

Several witnesses were called, who proved that they had frequently seen Holloway and Haggerty in company with each other.

John Nares, Esq. the magistrate, said that the prisoners were examined by him apart, when Hanfield was produced in evidence against them. He then read from a paper the examination of Haggerty, in which he denied knowing any thing of either Hanfield or Holloway, or being at the Turk's Head or Black Horse porter-houses. Haggerty acknowledged he had been in confinement in July, 1802, in Tothill-fields. After his liberation, he said, he worked for some time with Mr. Smith, of Castle-street, as a plasterer; that his working dress was usually a green velveteen jacket and small-clothes. Being confronted afterwards with Mr. Smith, he denied his having ever been employed by him. The same paper stated, that Holloway had acknowledged he knew Hanfield and Haggerty, but had never drank in their company; had never been at Hounslow in his life. He alleged he had worked for a Mr. Rose, and others, in November, 1802, which on application was found to be inaccurate, as he had not worked for them till March, 1803.

James Bishop, a police-officer, stated, that in the rear of the public-office in Worship-street, are some strong rooms for the safe keeping of prisoners pending their successive

cessive examinations. In two of these rooms, adjacent to each other, and separated by a strong partition, the prisoners were separately confined, and immediately behind these rooms is a privy. In this privy he took post regularly after each successive day's examination; and as the privy went behind both rooms, he could distinctly overhear the conversation of the prisoners, as they spoke pretty audibly to each other from either side of the partition. Of this conversation he took notes, which were afterwards copied out fairly, and proved before the magistrates; and which he, on this occasion, read as his evidence in court.

Mr. Andrews, counsel for the prisoners, objected to this sort of evidence, it being impossible, he said, that the officers could overhear all that was said, and that the conversation thus mutilated might be misconstrued:—besides, the minds of officers, for the sake of reward, were always prejudiced against the prisoners. His objections, however, were over-ruled by the Court.

These conversations ran to a very considerable length; but the material points were few. They shewed, however, from the words of the prisoners' own conversation, that all they had said before the magistrates, in the denial of any acquaintance with each other, or with Hanfield, was totally false, and a mere stratagem to baffle the testimony of the latter, who they hoped had secured his own execution by confessing his guilt, without being able to prove theirs; for they were confident the magistrates would not believe his testimony; and that there was no other witness to prove any clue to the fact, or that saw them together near Hounslow, where, from the whole connected tenour of their conversation, it was clear they had been on the night of the murder. Haggerty asked Holloway, after one of the latter examinations, "Where did Hanfield say we had the gin that night, after we came to town?" To which Holloway answered, "At the Black Horse in Dyot-street." Haggerty then replied, "It must be at the Black Horse we had the gin, sure enough."

John Smith, a coachman to the Gosport coach, in the month of November, 1802, near eight o'clock in the evening

evening of the above-mentioned day, heard, as he passed across Hounslow Heath, on the right hand side of the road, near the eleven mile-stone, two groans, the last more faint than the other; on which he remarked to some one on the outside of the coach, that "there was something desperate carrying on there."

Isaac Clayton, beadle of Hounslow, said, he received a pair of shoes and a stick from some person he does not recollect, just after the murder of Mr. Steele: he recollected, near six years ago, seeing Holloway in company with a man of the same name, who had a wooden leg, about the town of Hounslow; and had seen him also at Brentford election, and other places. The prisoner himself acknowledged he knew him, when examined in Worship-street.

Joseph Townsend, police-officer of Worship-street, produced a huge knotty bludgeon, a pair of shoes, and a hat, which had been given several years ago to Clayton, by Hughes, and was delivered to him by Clayton.

J. Blackman, an officer, knew Haggerty seven years, Hanfield five years, and Holloway a year and a half. About four years ago, he had often seen them together at the Turk's Head, where he conversed with Haggerty, and observed to him he had been lately in a good thing, as his dress was much improved; the prisoner said, he had left it all off now, as he was serving a plasterer, near Hounslow. He was dressed in a green velveteen jacket and small-clothes.

A hat was then produced in court, which had been the property of the deceased, by whom it was given to a servant man, who had since worn it almost to rags. The hat had been very much widened in the wearing, and, when placed on Holloway's head, appeared rather too large for him.

William Robinson, hatter to the deceased, stated, that the hat must have been enlarged by wearing, as he had Mr. Steele's measure in 1802, and could answer for it that the deceased's hat must nearly fit the prisoner Holloway, as their heads were nearly the same size.

William Britten, shoemaker, knew well the deceased's measure, and thought his boots would fit the prisoner, Haggerty.

Haggerty. The shoes produced in court, he said, he had tried on the prisoner, and found them rather too large ; but added, that it was plain, from the manner the hind quarter of the shoe had fallen inwards, that they were too large for their original wearer.

The prosecution being closed, the prisoners were called to make their defence.

Haggerty protested he was completely innocent of the charge, was totally ignorant of the prosecutor Hanfield, denied ever being at Hounslow, and endeavoured to point out some inconsistencies in the evidence which had been adduced by Hanfield.

Holloway declared he was equally innocent of the charge ; but admitted he had been at Hounslow more than once, might have been in the company of the prisoners Haggerty and Hanfield, but was not acquainted with either of them.

The prisoner's counsel then produced, as a witness for the prisoners, John Shuter, one of the head-turnkeys of the jail, in whose custody Hanfield had been for some time. He then proceeded to ask some questions, tending to invalidate Hanfield's evidence ; but, as the witness could state nothing from his own knowledge, he was not permitted to be further examined.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc summed up the evidence in a very clear and perspicuous manner, making some very humane observations upon the nature of the testimony given by accomplices, recommending the jury to divest themselves of every feeling but that of strict justice ; and to compare with precision the circumstantial evidence (which was the only evidence we could arrive at in most cases of murder, on account of its usual secrecy) with the direct and positive testimony of the approver Hanfield. He admitted that such testimony should be received with caution ; yet such strong collateral evidence must have its due weight and influence on their verdict.

The jury retired for about a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of guilty against both the prisoners.

The Recorder immediately passed sentence in the
most

most solemn and impressive manner, and the unhappy men were ordered for execution on the following Monday morning.

They went from the bar protesting their innocence, and apparently careless of the miserable and ignominious fate that awaited them.

Since conviction, Haggerty and Holloway conducted themselves with the most decided indifference. On Saturday, February 21, the cell-door, No. 1, in which they were both confined, was opened about half-past two.

They were reading in two prayer-books by candle-light, as the cell is very dark. On Sunday, neither of them attended the condemned sermon, as in cases of murder the offenders are deprived of benefit of clergy, neither does the bell of St. Sepulchre toll during the solemnity of their execution.

On Sunday, several magistrates interrogated them;—one of whom, with great acuteness, but they still persisted in their innocence.

During the whole of Sunday night, the convicts were engaged in prayer, never slept, but broke the awful stillness of midnight by frequent protestations of reciprocal innocence. At five they were called, dressed, and shaved, and about seven were brought into the press-yard:—There was some difficulty in knocking off the irons of Haggerty; he voluntarily assisted, though he seemed much dejected, but by no means pusillanimous. A message was then delivered to the sheriffs, purporting that Holloway wanted to speak with them in private. This excited very sanguine expectations of confession; but the sheriffs, on their return, intimated to the gentlemen in the press-yard, that Holloway wanted to address them publicly; and therefore requested they would form themselves into a circle, from the centre of which Holloway delivered, in the most solemn manner, the following energetic address:—“Gentlemen, I am quite innocent of this affair. I never was with Hanfield; nor do I know the spot. I will kneel and swear it.” He then knelt down, and imprecated curses on his head if he were not innocent, and expressed, “By God, I am innocent.”

Owen Haggerty then ascended the scaffold. His arms were pinioned, and the halter round his neck : he wore a white cap, and a light olive shag great coat ; he looked downwards, and was silent. He was attended by a Roman Catholic clergyman, who read to him, and to whom the unfortunate culprit seemed to pay great attention : he made no public acknowledgment of either guilt or innocence. After the executioner tied the fatal noose, he brought up John Holloway, who wore a smock frock and jacket, as it had been stated by the approver that he did at the time of the murder : he had also a white cap on ; was pinioned, and had a halter round his neck : he had his hat in his hand ; and, mounting the scaffold, he jumped and made an awkward bow, and said, " I am innocent, innocent, by God !" He then turned round, and, bowing, made use of the same expressions. " Innocent, innocent, innocent ! Gentlemen !—No verdict ! No verdict ! No verdict ! Gentlemen—Innocent ! innocent !" At this moment, and while in the act of saying something more, the executioner proceeded to do his office by placing the cap over the face of Holloway ; to which he, with apparent reluctance, complied ; at the same time uttering some words. As soon as the rope was fixed round his neck, he continued quiet. He was attended in his devotions by an assistant at the Rev. Rowland Hill's Chapel.

The last that mounted the scaffold was Elizabeth Godfrey. She had been a woman of the town, aged 34, who had been capitally convicted of the wilful murder of Richard Prince, in Mary-le-bone parish, on the 25th of December, 1806, by giving him a mortal wound with a pocket-knife in the left eye, of which wound he languished and died. Immediately on receiving sentence, this woman's firmness and recollection seemed to fail her, and she appeared bordering upon a state of frenzy. At the place of execution she was dressed in white, with a close cap, and long sleeves, and was attended by the Rev. Mr. Ford, the Ordinary of Newgate ; but her feelings appeared to be so much overpowered, that notwithstanding she bore the appearance of resignation in her countenance, her whole frame was so shaken by the terror

ror of her situation, that she was incapable of any actual devotion.

They were all launched off together, at about a quarter after eight. It was a long time before the body of the poor female seemed to have gone through its last suffering.

The crowd which assembled to witness this execution was unparalleled, being, according to the best calculation, near 40,000; and the fatal catastrophe, which happened in consequence, will cause the day long to be remembered. By eight o'clock not an inch of ground was unoccupied in view of the platform. The pressure of the crowd was such, that, before the malefactors appeared, numbers of persons were crying out in vain to escape from it: the attempt only tended to increase the confusion. Several females of low stature, who had been so imprudent as to venture amongst the mob, were in a dismal situation: their cries were dreadful. Some, who could be no longer supported by the men, were suffered to fall, and were trampled to death. This also was the case with several men and boys. In all parts there were continued cries of Murder! Murder! particularly from the female part of the spectators and children, some of whom were expiring without the possibility of obtaining the least assistance, every one being employed in endeavours to preserve his own life. The most affecting scene of distress was seen at Green-Arbour-Lane, nearly opposite the Debtors' door. The terrible occurrence which took place near this spot was attributed to the circumstance of two pie-men attending there to dispose of their pies; and one of them having his basket overthrown, which stood upon a sort of stool with four legs, some of the mob, not being aware of what had happened, and at the same time severely pressed, fell over the basket and the man at the moment he was picking it up, together with its contents. Those who once fell were never more suffered to rise, such was the violence of the mob. At this fatal place a man of the name of Herrington was thrown down, and had in his hand his youngest son, a fine boy about twelve years of age. The youth was soon trampled to death: the father recovered,

though much bruised, and was amongst the wounded in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A woman who was so imprudent as to bring with her a child at the breast was one of the number killed: whilst in the act of falling, she forced the child into the arms of the man nearest to her, requesting him, for God's sake, to save its life: the man, finding it required all his exertion to preserve himself, threw the infant from him, but it was fortunately caught at a distance by another man, who, finding it difficult to ensure its safety or his own, got rid of it in a similar way. The child was again caught by a person who contrived to struggle with it to a cart, under which he deposited it until the danger was over, and the mob had dispersed. In other parts the pressure was so great, that a horrible scene of confusion ensued, and seven persons lost their lives by suffocation alone. It was shocking to behold a large body of the crowd, as one convulsive struggle for life, fight with the most savage fury with each other; the consequence was that the weakest, particularly the women, fell a sacrifice. A cart which was overloaded with spectators broke down, and some of the persons falling from the vehicle were trampled under foot, and never recovered. During the hour the malefactors hung, little assistance could be afforded to the unhappy sufferers; but after the bodies were cut down, and the gallows removed to the Old Bailey Yard, the marshals and constables cleared the street where the catastrophe occurred, and, shocking to relate, there lay nearly 100 persons dead, or in a state of insensibility, strewed round the street! Twenty-seven dead bodies were taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; four to St. Sepulchre's church; one to the Swan on Snow-hill; one to a public-house opposite St. Andrew's church, Holborn; one, an apprentice, to his master's; Mr. Broadwood, piano-forte maker, to Golden-Square; a mother was seen carrying away the body of her dead boy; Mr. Harrison, a respectable gentleman, was taken to his house at Holloway. There was a sailor-boy killed opposite Newgate, by suffocation: he carried a small bag, in which he had some bread and cheese, as it is supposed he came some distance to behold the execution. After the dead, dying, and wounded, were carried away, there

there was a cart-load of shoes, hats, petticoats, and other articles of wearing apparel, picked up. Until four o'clock in the afternoon, most of the surrounding houses had some person in a wounded state: they were afterwards taken away by their friends on shutters, or in hackney-coaches. The doors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital were closed against the populace. After the bodies of the dead were stripped and washed, they were ranged round a ward on the first floor, on the women's side: they were placed on the floor with sheets over them, and their clothes put as pillows under their heads: their faces were uncovered: there was a rail along the centre of the room: the persons who were admitted to see the shocking spectacle went up on one side, and returned out on the other. Until two o'clock, the entrances to the Hospital were beset with mothers weeping for sons! wives for their husbands! and sisters for their brothers! various individuals for their relatives and friends!

Seldom has such a scene of distress and misery presented itself in this metropolis.—When the gates were opened a great concourse was admitted; and when the yard was full, the gates were again closed, until the first visitors retired from this scene of woe: as soon as any of the deceased were recognised, the body was either put into a shell, or the face covered over, with the name of the party written on a paper, and pinned over the body.

The next day (Tuesday) a coroner's inquest sat in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and other places where the bodies were, on the remains of the sufferers. Several witnesses were examined with respect to the circumstances of the accident, which examination continued till Friday, when the verdict was, "That the several persons came by their death from compression and suffocation."

JOHN MAYCOCK,

EXECUTED MARCH 23, 1807, ON THE TOP OF THE NEW GAOL, HORSE-MONGER-LANE, SOUTHWARK, FOR THE CRUEL AND COWARDLY MURDER OF AN OLD LONE LADY, MRS. ANN POOLEY, IN COMPANY WITH JOHN POPE, WHO WAS ADMITTED EVIDENCE FOR THE CROWN.

THOUGH these cruel men for a while escaped, yet in about six months the dreadful transaction was brought to light.

———“ For murder,
Though it hath no tongue, will speak
With most miraculous organ.”

Maycock and Pope, on the 20th of March, 1806, were put upon their trial at Kingston, on a charge of committing this crime in the month of August preceding.

The case was opened by Mr. Knowles, who stated, that it was one of the most aggravated nature, and perpetrated in the most deliberate manner, for the sake of plunder. The jury could have no doubt of the guilt of one of the prisoners, because the circumstances which he had to lay before them were of so strong a nature.— From the compunctions of remorse with which one of the prisoners (Pope) had been visited, he had disclosed the whole of the guilty affair; and he trusted, in the moment of need, at another tribunal, he might find mercy. The learned counsel then detailed the evidence which he meant to adduce, and proceeded to call his witnesses, the first of whom was Mrs. Sarah Pooley, sister of the deceased, who stated that her sister lived in Free-School street, Horsleydown, in a very retired manner; the house being almost constantly shut up, and no servant attending. The last time she saw the deceased was on the 26th of July, when she carried her the dividend due on her stock, which amounted to 12*l*. This sum she paid her in six 2*l*. notes of the Bank of England, all new. Having been informed of the murder, she procured a Mr. Garrett to examine the house.

John Mackrill Garrett stated, that, on the 26th of August, he searched the house, and discovered the deceased lying on her back in the kitchen; her left leg was bent under her; her clothes were all smooth; but her pockets had
been

been turned inside out : there were lying by her side a pair of scissors, a thimble, and a pen-knife. The body was in a putrid state. On making a further search, he found that all the drawers and boxes had been rifled ; and that the murderer or murderers had entered the house by pulling out some bricks that were under the wash-house window. A Mr. Humphries and his wife also assisted him in the search.

Mr. Thomas Brickenden, surgeon, stated, that he examined the body on the day the coroner's inquest was taken. He found it in so very putrid a state, that it was impossible to tell whether the deceased met her death by violence or otherwise. She was lying on the floor of the wash-house ; the scalp of the head appeared to be separated.

Thomas Griffin, a corn-porter, was acquainted with the prisoner Maycock ; met him about two months previous to the murder ; when the prisoner said, " Tom, I'll put you into a good job." The witness asked, " What it was ?" When the prisoner replied, " I know an elderly lady, who lives in a house by herself, which is shut up ; and she is worth a deal of money ; you and I, and a stout young fellow who works with Mr. Burgess, will do her out of it." The prisoner did not tell the witness where the lady lived. He said his companion was formerly a bargeman at Ware. The witness refused to have any concern in the robbery ; and, when he heard of the murder, communicated the circumstance to his brother, who brought Mr. Graham to his house (the witness being ill) to take his deposition. Previous to this communication, and subsequent to the murder, he had seen the prisoner, who told him he had plenty of money.

At his cross-examination, he said, that he did not mention to any person the proposition which the prisoner had made to him, because he did not think it necessary ; but when he heard of the murder, it struck him that it was the same house that the prisoner had hinted at.

Thomas Cockburn, foreman of the corn-porters at Mr. Burgess's, stated, that the prisoner Maycock worked at his master's at the time of the murder ; and that on Saturday,

day, the 9th of August, he was paid in common with the other men at Mr. Davis's, the Barley Mow, in Free-School-street. He came to finish his job on the Monday following ; but he did not see him again until he was apprehended. This witness proved that the wages which corn-porters earn is not very great ; the labour being so fluctuating.

Several other witnesses were called to prove these circumstances respecting the wages ; and to shew the connection between the two prisoners.

Aaron Graham, Esq. was examined touching the confession of Pope, respecting the murder. Mr. Graham stated, that Maycock was not present when Pope made the confession. That the proclamation offering a reward for the discovery of the murderers lay on the table.—Mr. G. asked Pope if he had seen it, who replied in the affirmative ; that the question was put to him in order to induce him to confess.

In this stage of the prosecution some discussion arose respecting the acquittal of Pope ; it being contended by his counsel, Mr. Gurney, that he was entitled to his acquittal ; and that in fact he ought not to have been put upon his trial, having confessed under the inducement of being pardoned.

Mr. Knowles, for the prosecution, contended that he ought to be made a party with the other prisoner ; but the Chief Baron ruled, that the prisoner stood in the same situation as any other prisoner ; that he had confessed under the promise of being pardoned, and that he was entitled to it. The prisoner Pope was accordingly acquitted, and the trial proceeded against Maycock.

The next witness was John Gray, the landlord of the public-house in which Maycock and his wife lodged.—This witness proved the intimacy between Pope and Maycock, and that the latter was absent all one Saturday night, about the time of the murder, and that he did not return home till late on the Sunday ; that he told the witness that he had been on the water with Pope, and had not ate a morsel all the day. Pope's wife was with the wife of Maycock : and in a few minutes Pope came in. Maycock asked, if any one had inquired after him ? and directed

directed the witness to say that he was ill, and gone into the country.

Two other witnesses were called to prove, that Maycock had ordered and paid for some new clothes, purchased a watch, &c. from which it was inferred that the money with which he made the purchases was dishonestly obtained.

Mr. Knowlys here proposed to call the accomplice Pope; to which Mr. Morris objected, on the ground that he was not a competent witness, having been put upon his trial. After some arguments of much ingenuity from Mr. Knowlys and Mr. Morris, the objection of the latter was over-ruled.

John Pope (the accomplice) was then called, and his examination was to the following effect: "I am a cornporter at present; but formerly had some craft at Bishop Storford, on the river Ware. I have known Maycock about a year and a half before the murder. About six weeks previous, he asked me to go with him to rob an old woman, who lived in a *hugger-mugger* way, at a shut-up house. We had many conversations upon the subject; and it went on till Saturday the 9th of August, when he asked me to go that evening. I agreed; though I was ill at the time. It was while he was at work at Burgess's. I saw him in the evening at the Bull public-house, where we sat drinking gin and water till about ten o'clock. We then, instead of going home, went backwards, and got through the loop-hole or kind of cock-loft window, which joins the Bull, and is part of the deceased's house. I took some bricks out in order to get in: I then unbolted the door, and let Maycock in. We tried to get further, but could not, the door being strongly barred. We remained in the wash-house till daylight, when I was much alarmed, and went twice into the public-house yard in order to get away; but Maycock called me back, and we went down into the cellar, where we remained till about eight o'clock, when the deceased came down. Maycock went up to the top of the stairs, and the instant she opened the door he rushed at her, threw her down, and she screamed out 'Oh!' I then ran up stairs, and saw Maycock kneeling over her,

with his hand or arm on her neck, which he held until she was quite dead! She never moved after I first saw her. Said he to me 'She is dead.' We then went up stairs, and rifled the drawers; from whence we took out gold, silver, bank-notes, and halfpence, to the amount of about ninety pounds. Maycock took a roll of linen, for shirts; and we found a bottle of brandy, which we drank. We staid in the house all the day, being afraid to go out. In the course of the day, we went and looked at the deceased two or three times. When the watchman went ten o'clock, I opened the door; Maycock took the bundle, and we quitted the house. He went home and sent his wife to me on the ruins, near his lodging, for the bundle, having left it in my charge, and I followed her. We then divided the booty; the notes were all two-pound notes."

On his cross-examination, he admitted that he stood charged with stealing corn from Mr Burgess's, but that he was innocent. Had given his evidence truly. Did not charge Maycock till he saw the proclamation offering pardon; and then disclosed the murder to save himself.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he was quite innocent of the charge alleged against him.

Some witnesses to character were called, but they did not answer.

The Lord Chief Baron then summed up the evidence in a very humane and impartial manner. The principal witness, he observed, was stained with the crime imputed to the prisoner: therefore his evidence ought to be taken with caution. The jury would attend, however, to see with what degree of probability his testimony was supported by the other witnesses. The learned judge then noticed the particular circumstances which made against the prisoner; such as his being out all Saturday night; having plenty of money; being seen in company with Pope; and having acknowledged that he was in his company all Saturday night, &c. These were the material circumstances, which it behoved them to take into consideration, when determining on the guilt or innocence of the prisoner.

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The jury, after a short consideration, returned a verdict of Guilty against the prisoner.

The learned Chief Baron then proceeded to pass the sentence of the law, in a very solemn and impressive address. The crime of which he had been found guilty was one to which all his experience did not furnish a parallel. It was of so foul a nature that not any apology could be found for it. It was begun in the contemplation of plunder, and concluded with murder. However painful his duty to pronounce sentence, he must do so; and he advised the prisoner to make the most of his time in petitioning for mercy at that tribunal where he must soon appear.

He was then sentenced to be hung on the following Monday, and to be dissected.

The prisoner was a robust-looking young man, about twenty-four years old, and wore a seaman's watch-coat. He did not appear to be much affected at his situation. On the contrary, he often laughed during the trial; and when sentence was passed on him, he observed, on going from the dock, "Thank you for that, I'm done snug enough."

He was executed on the Monday following.

WILLIAM DUNCAN,

CONVICTED AT THE SAME ASSIZES, FOR THE MURDER OF HIS MASTER,
WILLIAM CHIVERS, ESQ.

THIS unfortunate man was employed in the service of the deceased, as gardener, at Clapham Common. On the morning of the above-mentioned day, after breakfast, the niece of Mr. Chivers, who resided with him, went in his carriage to take an airing: Mr. Chivers, who was between seventy and eighty years of age, went into his garden to take a walk, as was his daily custom, inspecting the gardener at his work, and conversing with him. About half past eleven o'clock, the gardener ran into the house from the garden, in great agitation and terror, exclaiming to the servants, "Lord, what have I done! I

have struck my master, and he has fell ;” and immediately left the house, without giving any explanation, and made for the town of Clapham. The footman went into the garden to discover what had happened, when he found his master on the ground apparently lifeless, and his face a most shocking spectacle ; it appearing that the gardener had struck his master with a spade that he was at work with, the end of which entered the lower part of his nose, broke both his jaw-bones, and penetrated nearly to a line with his ears, so that his head was nearly separated. The gardener had inflicted two deep wounds, one being about eight inches in length, and three inches and a half in breadth. Duncan was soon after apprehended, and the magistrates committed him to Horsemonger-lane prison. The cause of the shocking act, it is supposed, was a dispute between him and his master, respecting the pruning of a vine.

The witnesses brought home the charge very strongly to the prisoner, who, when called upon for his defence, thus expressed himself:

“ I beg leave to assure your Lordship, that I never bore Mr. Chivers any malice whatever. On Saturday morning I had been employed in digging some ground, and with my spade in my hand I went to the green-house to give it some air, and there I left my spade. I then went for some refreshment, at eleven o’clock in the morning, as was usual, and on going into the kitchen I saw the footman, of whom I asked how long it was since Mr. Chivers went out. I then went into the garden, and to the green-house, into which I let a little more air. I then went with my spade in my hand, and looked at a vine. I saw Mr. Chivers, told him that I had finished my digging, and said I was very sorry to have left so good a place, and now to be turned off. A few words passed between Mr. Chivers and me, and the last expression he used when I had the spade in my hand was, “ You scoundrel, I will break your skull.” He shook his cane over me ; he made an attempt to strike at me, when I, turning aside, escaped ; he again endeavoured to strike, and I avoided the blow. After this he followed me up with his cane, and I then had, as I before said, a spade in
my

my hand. I raised the spade, and to my surprise struck him.

“Immediately afterwards, I went into the greenhouse, with the full intention of taking away my own life, but I had not sufficient courage to do it. I then went into the kitchen, and called Henry, who said, “What is the matter?” and I replied, “Good Lord, I have struck my master, and he fell.” I then went out towards Clapham, and the first persons I saw were a butler and a gardener. I went to the garden of Mr. Robert Thornton, and asked for Mr. Dixon, who is one of the gardeners. They said he was cutting a vine, but they went to him, and Mr. Dixon sent me word that I might come to him. I asked if any body was with him, and they said “Yes.” I then desired to speak to him alone, and Mr. Dixon enquired if I had any thing particular to mention, and I told him “Yes.” The first words I said were, “I have ruined myself.” He enquired “What is the matter?” I said, “I am afraid I have killed my master.” He then said it was a dreadful thing, and that I had better go back, and resign myself into the hands of justice. Upon this I observed to him that if I should be executed, I should be glad if he would write to Scotland, and inform my friends there that I had died suddenly. He said that he would, and I then came back towards Mr. Chivers’s house, and my heart failed me. I turned again, but had not gone far before I met a man, who said to me, “Are you Mr. Chivers’s gardener?” He then told me I must go with him; and I replied, “With all my heart.” He said that this was a very dreadful thing, and added, that he was very sorry for me; to which I answered, “I am sorry also, but I am afraid that it is too late.” After this I was taken to Wandsworth, where I underwent an examination. I was then committed to Horsemonger-lane, and from thence I have been brought here to take my trial.”

The witnesses for the prisoner were then called to his character.

The Chief Baron, after stating the nature of the indictment, said, that the prisoner was accused of having murdered his master. He had given a detailed account of
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the transactions referred to in the evidence ; and the jury would recollect, that in considering his narrative, it was fair to allow what he said in his own favour, as well as what he said against himself. The question was this:—If there was a previous design in the breast of the prisoner to perpetrate the crime of murder ; or if being threatened, provoked, or assaulted, he did this act from the passion of the moment ? In the latter case, the crime in law was extremely different from that of wilful murder. It was not easy to suppose that there should be such a diabolical design formed in a short space of time.

His Lordship here entered into a general review of the facts in evidence, and then concluded:—"By the witnesses, who have appeared on the part of the defendant, he seems to be, in their judgment, a very moral young man. You are to judge, if you think it was a deliberate intention ; or if it were the ebullition of anger at the instant, under the circumstances of provocation stated. If the design sprung up on Wednesday, which was executed on Saturday, the offence will be murder ; but if it were not previously formed, then there was no execution of such a deliberate intention ; and he will be acquitted of the capital part of the charge."

The jury, after having conferred for a considerable time, found the prisoner guilty of murder ; and he was accordingly sentenced to be executed on the Monday following, and to be anatomized.

The prisoner, during the whole of the time, conducted himself with great composure. He was a man of respectable appearance.

The Privy Council, however, did not, it appears, conceive that he was guilty of wilful and premeditated murder, but, on the contrary, admitted an immediate provocation on the part of the unfortunate old gentleman. They therefore represented him as a subject for royal clemency, in consequence whereof he was twice respited, and then ordered to be transported for the term of his natural life.

ANDREW

ANDREW SHESTACK,*(A German,)*

EXECUTED AT MAIDSTONE, MARCH 28, 1807, FOR MURDER.

THIS malefactor was a Hungarian by birth, and who had served in the Austrian army, but having been taken prisoner by the French, he next served them, and was in the army under Mortier. He was tried in the Lent assizes at Maidstone, 1807, for the wilful murder of Thomazine Ward, at St. Peter's, in the isle of Thanet, on the 6th of the preceding January. The counsel for the prosecution observed, that the prisoner was a private soldier in the King's German Legion, and the unfortunate woman who was murdered was at the time a shopkeeper of respectability, residing at St. Peter's, in the isle of Thanet. She had taken a walk to Broadstairs, about a mile distant from her place of residence, and not having arrived back again at the time appointed, her husband became alarmed for her safety, and, on search being made, the body was found in a field, about sixty yards from the road. It was evident that the unfortunate woman had experienced much violence; her body was exposed, and her person had been injured. The prisoner (it would be proved) was seen walking a few yards distant from the deceased a short time before the murder was committed, and it would be proved in evidence that he was absent from his guard, without leave, from seven till ten o'clock: his shoes were dirty with field dirt; and it would be proved that he was found in possession of three handkerchiefs, the property of the deceased, which had been taken from her. On being questioned where he was at nine o'clock, the prisoner said he was at the Neptune's-hall public-house, which would be contradicted in evidence; and he said the handkerchiefs found in his possession had been given him by a stranger. In another conversation the prisoner had said he saw a man knock a woman down, and it was the same man who gave him the handkerchiefs.

A ribband was found tied very tight round the neck of the deceased, and it would be proved by her husband, that

that she never wore an appendage of the kind. It would be stated by a surgeon, that by this ribband the deceased was strangled. Under the strong circumstances attending the case the jury would have no doubt of the guilt of the prisoner.

The facts, as stated by the counsel for the prosecution, were brought home to the prisoner by the several witnesses; and Judge Heath having summed up the evidence, the jury without hesitation found him guilty.

He was accordingly sentenced to be executed the following Saturday, and his body to be dissected.

The prisoner had an interpreter; and after sentence was passed on him, he said, "There is one God and one Heaven, and he had one prayer to make," the judge having informed him he need not expect mercy in this world. He professed the Catholic religion, and was attended to the scaffold by a priest.

His appearance was much altered since the day of his trial: he then appeared a stout, athletic, and vigorous young man; but when at the place of execution, his whole frame seemed broken and enfeebled. He prayed with great fervour: but, strange to say, he persisted to the last in denying his guilt, and asserting the same improbable tale which he told on his apprehension, namely, that he saw another man knock the woman down, who gave him her handkerchiefs.

GEORGE ALLEN,

EXECUTED AT STAFFORD, MARCH 30, 1807, FOR THE MURDER OF HIS
THREE CHILDREN.

WE would fain believe that insanity caused the horrid deed to be committed which we have now to mention. It appeared in evidence upon the trial, that this most unfortunate man, George Allen, had previous thereto been subject to epileptic fits, but that on Sunday preceding the day whereon he committed the murder, he was considerably better. Though a jury found him guilty of premeditated murder, we must, in charity to the failings of human nature, suppose that one of these mental derangements,



GEORGE ALLEN.

ments, epilepsy, again seized him at the time he committed this strange, cruel, and most unnatural murder. His examination before the coroner also seems to favour this opinion. At eight o'clock in the evening of the 12th of January, 1807, he retired to rest, and when his wife followed him in the course of an hour, she found him sitting upright in bed, smoking his pipe, which was his usual custom. In another bed, in the same room, lay three of his infant children asleep, the eldest boy about ten years old, the second a girl about six, and another boy about three. The wife having got into bed, with an infant at her breast, Allen asked her, "What other man she had in the house with her?" to which she replied, "that no man had been there but himself." He insisted to the contrary, and his wife continued to assert her innocence. He then jumped out of bed, and went down stairs, and she, from an impulse of fear, followed him; she met him on the stairs, and asked him what he had been doing in such a hurry? in answer to which he ordered her to get upstairs again. He then went to the bed where his children were, and turned down the clothes. On her endeavouring to hold him, he told her "to let him alone, or he would serve her the same sauce," and immediately attempted to cut her throat, in which he partly succeeded, and also wounded her right breast; but a handkerchief she wore about her head and neck prevented the wound from being fatal.— She then extricated herself (having the babe in her arms all the time, which she preserved unhurt), and jumped or rather fell down stairs. Before she could well get up, one of the children (the girl) fell at her feet, with its head nearly cut off, and which he had murdered and thrown after her. The woman opened the door, and screamed out "That her husband was cutting off their children's heads." A neighbour shortly came to her assistance; and a light having been procured, the monster was found standing in the middle of the house-place, with a razor in his hand. He was asked what he had been doing? when he replied coolly, "Nothing yet: I have only killed three of them!" On their going up stairs, a most dreadful spectacle presented itself: the head of one of the boys was very nearly severed from his body, and the bel-

lies of both were partly cut, and partly ripped open and the bowels torn completely out, and thrown on the floor. Allen made no attempt to escape, and was taken without resistance. He said that it was his intention to murder his wife and all her children, and then to have put an end to himself. An old woman, who lay bed-ridden in the same house, he professed his intention also to have murdered. An inquest was held on the bodies of the three children, before Mr. Hand, coroner of Uttoxeter, when he confessed his guilt, but without expressing any contrition. In answer to other interrogations, he promised to confess something that had lain heavy on his mind; and Mr. Hand, supposing it might relate to a crime he had heretofore committed, caused him to be examined in the presence of other gentlemen, when he told an incoherent story of a ghost, in the shape of a horse, having, about four years ago, enticed him into a stable, where it drew blood from him, and then flew into the sky. With respect to the murder of his children, he observed to the coroner, with apparant unconcern, that he supposed "it was as bad a case as ever he heard of."

The horrid circumstances of these unparalleled murders having been fully proved, he was convicted, and suffered the final sentence of the law without evincing a just sense of his crimes.

MARTHA ALDEN,

EXECUTED AT NORFOLK, JULY 31. 1807, FOR MURDER.

OF the many instances which we have already adduced, wherein women have committed that very worst of all crimes, the murder of their husbands, perhaps no case has been attended with more malice aforethought, art, and cruelty, than that perpetrated by Martha Alden.

Her trial for this offence came on at the summer assizes for the county of Norfolk, in the year 1807.

Samuel Alden, the victim of her brutality, was a husbandman, occupying a small cottage near Attleburgh in that county; and was accounted a quiet, industrious, character.

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The first witness, Edmund Draper, stated, that he had known the deceased Samuel Alden, the husband of the prisoner at the bar ; that on Saturday, the 18th of July, he was in company with the deceased at the White Horse public-house at Attleburgh ; that the prisoner, who was present when witness and the deceased met, said to them she was going home with her child, and went away ; witness sat drinking with Alden till near twelve o'clock, chatting with the wife of the publican ; he then accompanied the deceased to his house, which lay in the way to his own home : witness stated, that he himself was perfectly sober at the time ; that Alden, however, was rather fresh, but sober enough to walk staggering a little : he staid at Alden's house about three minutes, during which time he noticed that there was a larger fire burning on the hearth in the kitchen than was usual at that time of the year : he said Alden appeared in good health, and that no ill words passed between the deceased and the prisoner in his presence : he proceeded home in the direction of Thetford, and saw no one on the road. This witness described Alden's house to consist of a kitchen and bed-room, both on the same floor, and separated from each other by a small narrow passage ; he saw no one in the house except the prisoner and the deceased, and a little boy about seven years old.

Charles Hill, of Attleburgh, stated, that on the morning of Sunday, the 19th, he rose between two and three to go on a journey to Shelf-Anger Hall, about ten miles from Attleburgh, to see a daughter. The morning being wet, he took the turnpike road, in the direction to Thetford, and passed by Alden's house, from which his own is only two furlongs distant. When he approached the deceased's house, he saw the door open, and the prisoner standing within a few yards of the door : this was nearly at three o'clock in the morning. The prisoner accosted the witness, saying, "she could not think what smart young man it was coming down the common." The witness replied, "Martha, what the devil are you up to at this time of the morning?" She said, she had been down to the pit in her garden for some water : this garden was on the opposite side of the road to the house : she also said,

“ she had not returned long from the town (meaning Attleburgh town), where she had been at the White Horse : her husband and Draper, and herself, all came home together, and her husband was gone back again, she did not know where.” The witness did not go into the house ; but, looking in, saw some old clothes lying in a heap next the hearth, which, on his enquiring, she said covered her little boy, who was asleep there. The prisoner said, that he (by which the witness understood her to mean her husband) had a brother going into Essex, and had sworn he would go with him ; whereupon the witness observed that he knew Alden had let himself to harvest to Mr. Parson, which the prisoner assenting to, the witness farther said, “ If he go into Essex, he won’t come back to harvest.” The prisoner replied, “ I know he will never come back ; and if he has got a job, he never will settle to it.” The witness saw no person besides in the road.

Sarah Leeder, widow, of Attleburgh, knew the prisoner at the bar : she stated, that on Monday night, the 20th of July, the prisoner came to her house to borrow a spade, for that a neighbour’s sow had broken into her garden and rooted up her potatoes ; the witness lent her one, which was marked J. H. and she went away with it. On the following evening (Tuesday, 21), about eleven o’clock, she went out of her house upon the common to look for some ducks she had missed, and found them in a small pit : near this pit there was another of a larger size, besides a place called Wright’s Plantation : in this greater pit or pond, she saw something lying which attracted her attention ; she went to the edge of the pond, and touched it with a stick, upon which it sunk and rose again ; but the place, though the moon shone, being shaded, she could not discover what it was, and went home for the night. The next morning (Wednesday, 22), however, the witness returned to the spot, and again touched the substance with a stick, which still lay almost covered with water ; she then, to her great terror, saw the two hands of a man appear, with the arms of a shirt stained with blood. She instantly concluded that a man had been thrown in there murdered, and calling to a lad to
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go and acquaint the neighbourhood with the circumstance, went back in great alarm to her own house. In a quarter of an hour she returned again to the pond, and found that in her absence the body had been taken out: she then knew it to be the body of Samuel Alden: his face was dreadfully chopped, and his head cut very nearly off: the body was put into a cart, and carried to the house of the deceased. The witness afterwards went to look for her spade, and found it standing by the side of a hole, which she described to look like a grave, dug in the ditch which surrounds Alden's garden; she further stated that this hole was open, not very deep, and that she saw blood lying near it. The witness then went into the house, and, entering the bed-room, saw the marks of blood on the bed's feet, and on the bed-tick: the wall, close against which the bed stood, was also stained with blood. Being interrogated as to what clothes were on the body when taken out of the pond, she said it had on an old coat, with a slop or shirt over it, but neither shoes, stockings, nor breeches on: the shirt was turned over the head. Mary Parker, a young woman, who lived in Attleburgh, was passing over the common on her way to Attleburgh, on Tuesday (21st of July), and saw the prisoner digging in her garden. The witness went up to her and said, "You are stopping gaps:" the prisoner answered, "Yes, where Mrs. Leeder's sow had got in and spoiled her potatoes." When the witness first saw her, she was digging in the ditch separating the garden from Mr. Parson's field, at the bottom, as if to deepen it; but before the witness got close to her, she had gone to another part of the garden, three or four yards distant; and then got over the fence into the common. The witness saw no breaches in the fence, only a little mould thrown down where the prisoner had got over. This witness also saw the body taken out of the pit, and corroborated the testimony of the former witness, as to its appearance and dress.

Edward Rush stated, that on Wednesday morning (the 22d of July), by order of the constable of Attleburgh parish, he searched the prisoner's residence; in a dark chamber he found a bill-hook, which on examination appeared to have blood on its handle, and also on the blade; but

but looked as if it had been washed ; he also confirmed the statement of a preceding witness, as to the state of the bed-room in the house of the deceased, and described its dimensions to be about seven feet by ten.

William Parson, jun. of Attleburgh, stated, that he had known the deceased Samuel Alden, and the prisoner at the bar, as reputed man and wife, for the last six or seven years, and that they lived in a cottage in Attleburgh : he further deposed, that on Sunday, the 19th of July, between six and seven in the morning, he met the prisoner in company with a young woman, named Mary Orvice, on the turnpike-road, not far from Alden's house ; the prisoner told him she had lost her husband ; that two men in sailors' habits went past her house about two o'clock in the morning, and she had told them, if they overtook a man upon the road, to send him back ; but that they only gave her a dirty answer, and passed on. She expressed herself very unhappy about her husband, and feared that he was either murdered or drowned. On the following morning he saw her again ; she then said she had lost her husband, and that she had been walking above thirty miles that very day to look for him. This witness further stated, that he was one of the persons who examined Alden's house and premises, on Wednesday (the 22d), and the two following days ; his evidence on this point agreed with that of former witnesses, and also went to substantiate some additional particulars, namely, that the chimney-board, on the opposite side of the room to the bed, was also marked with blood-stains, which bore the appearance of an attempt having been made to scrape them off with a knife ; that the wall of a narrow passage leading from the bed-room to the kitchen was in places discoloured with blood ; he also described one of the bed's feet to have had similar stains upon it : this the witness had knocked off, and taken away with him ; and, being produced in Court, it was but too correctly found to answer the witness's description : he also found a sack upon the bed, with some spots of blood upon it, and a piece of another sack, which seemed to have been partly washed. In a shed adjoining the house, he likewise discovered another sack, concealed underneath nearly a hundred flags of turf : this sack

sack was also produced for the satisfaction of the jury ; and exhibited an appearance which struck the Court with horror and disgust. Being interrogated as to the distance which Alden's house stood from the pit in which the body was found, Mr. Parson stated, he had measured, and found it to be exactly 390 yards. He also observed the place mentioned by a former witness, which had been dug in the ditch of the garden ; it looked like a grave ; was about six feet in length, nineteen inches in depth, and of width sufficient to admit a human body ; the soil was of hard clay ; it was situated thirty-eight yards from the cottage.

Mr. Marner, surgeon, of Attleburgh, on Wednesday, at the request of the parish-officers, examined the body of Samuel Alden : he found a deep and mortal wound round the neck, reaching from ear to ear, and an extensive and deep cut across the forehead, and another cut down the left cheek, by which the jaw was broken. These wounds, Mr. Marner added, were such as a man could not possibly inflict upon himself.

Mary Orvice stated, that she had been acquainted with the prisoner a good while, and had frequently been at her house. The witness lives at her father's house, a little distance from the prisoner's dwelling. On Sunday (the 19th) the prisoner asked her to go with her to her house : when she got there, the prisoner said to her, " I have killed my husband ;" and, taking her into the bedroom, shewed her the body lying on the bed, quite dead, with the wounds as before described ; her account of the state and appearance of the room perfectly coincided with the descriptions of the former witnesses ; she also said she saw a hook lying on the floor all bloody : when the hook was shewn to her in court, she said it was the very same she had then seen. The prisoner then produced a common corn-sack ; and, at her request, the witness held it whilst the prisoner put the body into it ; the prisoner then carried the body from the bed-room, through the passage and kitchen, out of the house, across the road to the ditch surrounding the garden, and left it there after throwing some mould over it. The witness then left the prisoner, and went to Larling ; the prisoner slept that

that night at the witness's father's house. On the following night (the 20th), between nine and ten o'clock, the witness was again in company with the prisoner, and saw her remove the body of her husband (who was a small man) from the ditch of the garden to the pit on the common, dragging it herself along the ground in the sack; and when arrived at the pit, the prisoner shot the body into it out of the sack, which she afterwards carried away with her: the deceased had a shirt and slop on. In answer to a question from the judge, the witness said the weather was dry. The prisoner said nothing to her at the time, and she went home. The next morning (Tuesday) the witness went to the prisoner's house, and assisted in cleaning it up, taking some warm water, and washing and scraping the wall next the bed. This witness's evidence respecting the marks of blood about the room agreed precisely with the description given by Mr. William Parson, jun. The prisoner took up some loose straw, and told the witness she would carry and throw it into Mr. Parson's ditch, because it was bloody. The prisoner bade the witness to be sure not to say a word about the matter; for if she did, she (the witness) would certainly be hanged. Upon being questioned to that effect by the judge, this witness further stated, that she had told the story to her father on the Tuesday night, and to nobody else.

On his lordship asking the prisoner what she had to say in her defence, she told an incoherent sort of story, which, however, as far as it was at all intelligible, seemed rather to aim at making the testimony of the last witness appear contradictory and suspicious, and to implicate her in the guilt of the transaction, than to deny the general charges which had been adduced against herself.

The learned judge then summed up the evidence in a very full and able manner; pointing out, with great perspicuity, those parts of it, an attention to which was more particularly calculated to assist the jury in their important decision, humanely laying a stress on whatever circumstance seemed to be of a nature in the smallest degree favourable for the prisoner. On the subject of Mary Orvice's

Orvice's testimony, his lordship remarked, that it certainly came under great suspicion, as being that of an accessory to the attempted concealment of the murder. Viewing it in that light, therefore, and taking it separately, it was to be received with extreme caution: but, if it should be found, in most material facts, to agree with and corroborate the successive statements of the other witnesses, whose declarations did not labour under those disadvantages, the jury were then to give its due weight and avail themselves of the information which it threw on the transaction.

The jury consulted together for a short time, and found the prisoner Guilty. Whereupon the learned judge, after a short, but very solemn and impressive address to the prisoner at the bar, in which he observed that he had never before met with a case so horrid and atrocious, proceeded to pass upon her the awful sentence of the law; which was, that, on Friday, she should be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, there to be hanged by the neck till she was dead, and her body afterwards to be dissected.

The trial lasted upwards of three hours. The Court, during the whole time, was excessively crowded, and the heat was consequently very great; several of the female part of the audience were overpowered by it, and obliged to be carried out.

The behaviour of the wretched woman during her trial, as well as before it, appeared in a lamentable degree to be influenced by that hardened and remorseless spirit, which but too surely characterizes the human mind sunk to the lowest state of degradation and depravity. Afterwards, however, she confessed the crime for which she was to suffer. The account she gave of the fatal transaction was, that on Saturday night, the 18th of July, she and her husband (who was at the time a good deal in liquor) quarrelled, and he threatened to beat her. Alden soon after threw himself on the bed, and at that instant she formed the resolution of destroying him, accordingly she ran into the adjoining room, returned with a bill hook, which she held in both her hands, and striking him on the forehead, instantly killed him. She

further acknowledged, that the girl (Orvice) had no concern whatever in the murder, and only assisted, at her request, in putting the body of her husband into the sack.

On Friday, July 31, at twelve o'clock, this unhappy female was drawn on a hurdle, and executed on the Castle hill, pursuant to her sentence, in presence of an immense concourse of spectators. She behaved at the fatal tree with the decency becoming her awful situation.

JOHN ALMOND,

CONVICTED DECEMBER SESSIONS, 1809, OF FORGERY, AND EXECUTED BEFORE NEWGATE.

THIS unfortunate, and we may add presumptuous, man, aged forty-five, was an inspector of lamps, for the parish of St. James's, Westminster; from which, and another similar situation, he derived an income of about 150*l.* per annum. Abraham Priddy is a lamp-lighter, living in Malborough-row, Carnaby-market. The prisoner had lodged for some time at Priddy's house, and by that means becoming acquainted with his circumstances, formed the plan of fraud, for which he forfeited his life. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Grose, December 1807.

The first witness was Thomas Harrison, a clerk in the Prerogative Office, Doctors' Commons, who said, that on the 11th of June, the prisoner brought to the office a deed purporting to be the will of Abraham Priddy, by which the prisoner, who was declared in the will to be the testator's brother-in-law, was made his executor and residuary legatee. The will further stated, that the said Abraham Priddy was possessed of three hundred pounds in the 4 per cents. and gave the sum of 50*l.* to his wife, and two other sums of 50*l.* each, to two other persons, who were afterwards proved to have no existence. The prisoner had been formerly a clerk in the Prerogative Office, and had engrossed many wills, so that the witness knew his hand-writing, and observed to him at the time, that this will had been written by him; to which the prisoner

soner replied, it was. To this will was affixed the mark of Priddy, who the prisoner said was now dead. Every thing was transacted regularly, and an attested copy of the will was received by the prisoner on the 12th or 13th of June. Witness acted according to the instructions of the prisoner, and wrote on the other side of the will, "Abraham Priddy, testator, formerly of Marlborough-row, Carnaby-market, and Smith's-court, Windmill-street, St. James's, late of the hamlet of Hammersmith, died on the 10th instant." The witness perfectly recollected the prisoner's hand-writing, though it was about twenty-three years ago when he was clerk in the same office with him, and he had never seen him write but once since then.

Abraham Priddy said, that he knew the prisoner these sixteen years; that one day he took an opportunity of advising him, for some trifling reason or other, not to go into the city to receive his dividends that half year; to which witness replied, that it was of no consequence to him (the prisoner) when he went. Upon witness's going into the city, however, some time lately, the stock was gone, and found to be transferred to the prisoner, who had given himself out as Priddy's executor. Witness added, that he could neither read nor write, and had never made a will in his life.

The forged will was now read, and the witness was asked, if the prisoner was his brother-in-law; which was answered in the negative.

Mary Priddy, wife to the last witness, said, that some time before this happened, the prisoner had asked her, in the course of conversation, what stock her husband had in the Bank? She told him, with great simplicity, that he had 300l. four per cents.

It was afterwards proved by John Rose, a stock-broker, and Charles Norris, a clerk from the Bank, that the money in the four per cents. had been transferred over to the prisoner, in consequence of his producing the forged will, and who, in that transfer, subscribed himself executor to the deceased Priddy.

The prisoner in his defence, urged, that the probat was not produced against him; and that he should not be

convicted of publishing a will that was in Doctors' Commons.

Judge Grose declared, that the production of the probat was not necessary. His lordship then shortly summed up the evidence, adding, that the case seemed so clear, he could not suggest a doubt about the prisoner's guilt. The prisoner's object evidently was to get hold of the stock by fraudulent means, and he was very properly charged with an intention of defrauding the Bank, since they were bound to indemnify Priddy for the loss which he sustained by the transfer of the money into the prisoner's hands.

The jury, after a short consultation, found the prisoner "Guilty."

This unfortunate man's behaviour after conviction, was such as became his unhappy situation: and on the morning of his execution, January 20, 1808, he received the sacrament, and prayed with the minister some time: he then was taken to the press-yard, where his irons were knocked off and his arms bound; after which, he proceeded to the fatal platform, before the Debtor's-door, Old Bailey, when, after some minutes spent in prayer, he was launched into eternity.

THOMAS SIMMONS,

(*The Man of Blood,*)

EXECUTED MARCH 7, 1808, FOR MURDER.

HORRID as our pages have necessarily been, in depicting such as have suffered for this most foul of all crimes, this hardened young villain may, with the greatest propriety, be most fitly called "The Man of Blood;" for such depravity, malignant ferocity, and desperate vindictiveness, surely never before, at his years, entered in one single mind. He was not more than nineteen years of age, and of a clownish appearance. His father was a shoemaker by trade, but followed the plough some years before his death. His mother is also said to be dead.

This malefactor was taken at an early age into Mr. Boreham's



THOMAS SIMMONS.

Boreham's family, where he lived some years, till by his brutish behaviour in several instances, they were under the necessity of discharging him ; after which he worked at Mesrss. Christie and Co. brewers.

Mr. Boreham, a very old gentleman, afflicted by the palsy, has been many years a resident at Hoddesdon; his house is on the declivity of the hill, beyond that town, about two hundred yards from the market-house. He had four daughters, one of them was the wife of Mr. Warner, brass-founder, of the Crescent, Kingsland-road, and also of the Crescent, Jewin-street. Mrs. Warner had been on a visit to her parents for several days ; and on Tuesday evening, October 20, 1807, a Mrs. Hummerstone, who superintended as housekeeper the business of the Black-lion Inn, at Hoddesdon, for Mr. Batty, the proprietor, who was at Mr. Boreham's house, in consequence of an invitation to spend the evening with the family. The company assembled in the parlour, were Mr. Boreham, his wife, his four daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mrs. Warner. About a quarter past nine, this party were alarmed by a very loud voice at the back of the house. It proceeded from some person in dispute with the servant woman, Elizabeth Harris, and who was insisting to get into the house. He proved to be Thomas Simmons ; who, it seems, had, while in the family, paid his addresses to the servant, Elizabeth Harris, who was many years older than himself ; but the symptoms of a ferocious and ungovernable temper, which he had frequently displayed, had induced his mistress to dissuade the woman from any connection with him ; and his violent disposition had led also to his dismissal from this family, as before stated. He had been heard to avow vengeance against Elizabeth Harris and the eldest Miss Boreham ; and on Tuesday night, at the hour already mentioned, he made his way to the farm-yard, and from thence into an interior court, called the Stone-yard. Elizabeth Harris, on seeing his approach, retired within a scullery, and shut the door against him. He demanded admittance, which she refused ; high words accordingly arose ; and he plunged his hand, armed with a knife, through a window lattice at her, but missed his aim. This
noise

noise alarmed the company in the parlour, or keeping-room, as it is called. Mrs. Hummerstone was the first to come forth, in hope of being able to intimidate and send away the disturber; but just as she reached the back-door, leading from the parlour to the stone-yard, Simmons, who was proceeding to enter the house that way, met her, and with his knife stabbed her in the jugular artery, and pulling the knife forward, laid open her throat on the left side. She ran forward, as is supposed, for the purpose of alarming the neighbourhood, but fell, and rose no more.

The murderer pursued his sanguinary purpose, and rushed into the parlour, raised and brandished his bloody knife, swearing a dreadful oath, that 'he would give it them all.' Mrs. Warner was the person next him: and without giving her time to raise from her chair, he gave her so many stabs in the jugular vein, and about her neck and breast, that she fell from her chair, covered with streams of blood, and expired. Fortunately Miss Anne Boreham had been up stairs, immediately previous to the commencement of this horrid business; and her sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah, terrified at the horrors they saw, ran up stairs too, for safety.

The villain next attacked the aged Mrs. Boreham, by a similar aim at her jugular artery, but missed the point, and wounded her deep in her neck, though not mortally. The poor old gentleman was making his way towards the kitchen, where the servant maid was, and the miscreant, in endeavouring to reach the same place, overset him, and then endeavoured to stab the servant in the throat; she struggled with him, caught at the knife, and was wounded severely in the hand and arm. The knife fell in the struggle. She, however, got out at the back-door, and made her way into the street, where, by her screams of murder, she alarmed the neighbourhood. The poor people, residing near the house, were all in their beds; but the whole town was soon in alarm.

The murderer sought to conceal himself, and after some search he was discovered in a cow-crib; he was immediately made prisoner, and brought to the Bell ale-house, where he was bound and handcuffed until morning, and
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was actually on the point of death, from the tightness of his ligatures, which had nearly stopped the circulation, when Mr. Fairfax, of the Black-bull Inn, in the town, interfered, cut the ligatures, and thereby prevented a death too summary for the cause of public justice.

Two professional gentlemen in the town, Mr. James and Mr. Worthington, almost instantly attended Mr. Boreham's family, but could render no manner of aid to Mrs. Warner or Mrs. Hummerstone, who were already dead. They dressed, however, Mrs. Boreham's wound, and the old gentleman was found prostrate where he fell, with a poker by his side, which his full strength would not allow him to use.

An inquest was held at the Black-bull Inn, on the Wednesday following, which continued from eleven in the morning until eight in the evening; and wilful murder having been brought in against Thomas Simmons, he was committed to Hertford goal, to abide his trial, which was expected to have commenced March 3, but owing to the late hour Mr. Justice Heath arrived at Hoddesdon, it did not take place before Friday, March 4.

At a very early hour the Court-house was uncommonly crowded with vast numbers from London and the adjacent villages.

As Mr. Boreham's family, who were all Quakers, refused to prosecute in behalf of Mrs. Warner; the prisoner was only tried on one indictment, viz. for the murder of Mrs. Hummerstone, at the instance of Mr. W. White, and Mr. B. Fairfax, of the Bull-inn, Hoddesdon, and Mr. J. Brown, churchwarden of that place.

Mr. Pooley, as counsel for the prosecution, addressed the jury with great propriety, on the notoriety of the cause before them, which had been so much the subject of astonishment and conversation, that he must consider them as already acquainted with most of the circumstances, which would be laid before them for their consideration. But to give the prisoner every fair chance for his deliverance, consistent with the public justice of their country, which country they were then representing, he intreated them to dismiss from their minds all information or knowledge of whatever description, which might, in
any

any respect, affect the prisoner, and restrain themselves entirely within the line of that evidence, which, painful as the duty was, it was then his instruction to lay before them. In stating the case, to direct the jury to the nature of the charge, and the evidence he should have to produce in support of it, he presented them with a summary of facts, which had occurred prior to the commission of the fatal act, for which the prisoner was now to answer to them. He mentioned the circumstance of his having lived a fellow-servant at Mr. Boreham's, at Hoddesdon, with Elizabeth Harris, to whom he had paid his addresses, and wished to marry her; with other particulars which would appear in evidence, and would appear to be necessary to connect the facts, and to ascertain the motives upon which the murder had been perpetrated. He then adverted to the various particulars of the murder, to determine in what mind and disposition it had been effected, which was a matter of the greatest importance for their consideration; the nature of his concealment after the horrid deed had been committed, and the manner of his being found; with such other circumstances as it was his duty to describe to them, to enable them to decide conscientiously as honest men, and as they could answer to God upon their oaths; all which he was satisfied they would faithfully attend to, in discharging the trust which their country had now reposed in them. To ascertain, in the first place, the cause of the premature death of Mrs. Hummerstone, it was necessary to call Mr. Samuel James, who was sent for in his professional capacity, as a surgeon, and residing in Hoddesdon, to her assistance, not being then entirely dead. This was on the 20th of October, 1807. He found her leaning against the pailing near the door, and that she had received a severe wound in the neck. She died in about three minutes after; and there cannot be a doubt that the wound, by whatsoever means it had been given, was the cause of her death.

Elizabeth Harris being next sworn, and asked in whose service she was at the time of this unfortunate accident, answered, that she then lived with Mr. Boreham's family, and for four years preceding; that the prisoner had lived there

there three years, but quitted his service at Michaelmas. On being asked, if the prisoner had not expressed some strong inclination to marry her, she answered that he had, but that her mistress disapproved of it; and that he had quarrelled with the witness on that account, before he left the service, and was so enraged as to beat her; and, not contented with this, declared, that he did not care if he had killed her; further adding, that he had often said he would make away with her, because she would not marry him. She then added, that the murder was effected about half past eight in the evening; that she first heard him coming along the yard towards the house, at which time she was in the kitchen; that she heard him swearing violently, and she requested him not to make a noise or disturbance, as there was company in the house; but he said, he did not care for the company, as he would do for them all. The witness then ran into the wash-house, and shut the door, when he struck at her through the lattice. At this time, the noise being very considerable, Mrs. Hummerstone opened the door, and came into the yard, telling him to go away; when he struck her on the head, and knocked off her bonnet; on which she ran back into the house, and he followed her immediately. The witness heard the shrieks of murder, though she could not tell from whence it came, as all the family were in the room, consisting of Mr. Boreham's three daughters, with Mrs. Warner, a married daughter, their father and mother, and Mrs. Hummerstone. The witness then added, that the prisoner very soon came towards the wash-house, when she again shut the door, and cried out "Murder!" and immediately ran into the sitting-room. She saw some person lying under the window, but, from her fright, could not say who it was; she ran away down the passage, followed by the prisoner, where she met her master, a very feeble old man, with a poker in his hand, who was knocked down in running hastily. Being seized by the prisoner, the witness was thrown down, when he drew a knife across her throat, by which her hand, in guarding it, was much cut; and in his second attempt, she wrested it from him, on which he ran away immediately, and she saw no more of him. In

his attempts to murder the witness, he threw her across Mrs. Warner, who was then, as she believed, lying dead. Whilst this witness was giving her evidence, her agitation was so great, that she was obliged to be supported during the whole time she was in court.

Sarah Cakebury was next sworn, who deposed, that she lived near Boreham's, at the time of this misfortune, on the 20th of October, and was alarmed on that evening with the cry of murder; on which she went into the house, when she passed Mrs. Hummerstone, and saw Mrs. Warner lying dead under the window.

George Britton, being next sworn, stated that on the fatal evening of the 20th of October, in consequence of hearing of this melancholy event, he went to Mr. Boreham's house at Hoddesden; and, after he had been informed more particularly respecting it, proceeded, without delay, in search of the murderer. On finding the hat of Tom Simmons, the prisoner at the bar, in the cow-house, he went in further search of him, but did not find him.

Thomas Copperthwaite, on being sworn, deposed, that he also went in search of the murderer, and discovered Simmons, the prisoner, concealed under some straw in a crib in the farm-yard; and on being interrogated as to his dress, he stated, that he had on him a smock-frock, which was very bloody, and that the place where he was found was about a hundred yards from the house.

The coroner, Benjamin Rook, Esq. being next called, and sworn, he deposed, that when the testimony of Elizabeth Harris, at the time of his inquest, was read to the prisoner at the bar, he said it was very true; that he had murdered them, and no one else; but it was not his intention to have murdered Mrs. Hummerstone, but that he went to the house with a full design to murder Mrs. Boreham, Mrs. Warner, and Elizabeth Harris, the servant.

The constable, under whose custody the prisoner was conveyed to Hertford gaol, on being sworn, deposed to the same effect; with this additional circumstance, acknowledged to him by Simmons, that after he had thrown the

the servant down, he heard something fluttering over his shoulders, which made him get up and run away.

Thus closed the evidence on the part of the prosecution; after which, the prisoner, as usual, was called upon to know if he had any thing to say in his defence, when he very carelessly, and with much apparent indifference, answered, 'No.' The evidence having been summed up by Mr. Justice Heath, before whom he was tried, on a case so very clear, he said, that observations were rendered unnecessary; because, if any doubt could possibly have existed of the prisoner's guilt, he had, more than once, voluntarily acknowledged it.

The jury almost instantly gave the verdict of "Guilty;" and the learned judge proceeded, without delay, to pronounce the dreadful sentence of the law, in the accustomed manner; to be hanged on the following Monday, and his body to be afterwards committed to the surgeons to be anatomized.

The sentence seemed to affect him very little; he walked from the bar with great coolness and indifference; and suffered the punishment denounced for his crime accordingly, on the 7th day of March, 1808.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, ESQ.

(Brevet Major in the Army, and a Captain in the 21st Regiment of Foot,)

EXECUTED AUGUST 24, 1808, AT ARMAGH, IN IRELAND, FOR MURDER.

THIS is another instance of the fatal effects of that sanguinary mode of adjusting quarrels by duel. In vain have the laws endeavoured to abolish this custom by punishing the offenders with death.

A man of honour, deprived of the esteem of others, foresees that he must be reduced either to a solitary existence, insupportable to a social creature, or become the object of perpetual insult; considerations sufficient to overcome the fear of death. It may not be without its use to repeat here, what has been mentioned by other writers, viz. that the best method of preventing this crime is to punish the aggressor, that is, the person who gave
 3 E 2 occasion

occasion for the duel; and to acquit him, who, without any fault on his side, is obliged to defend that which is not sufficiently secured to him by the laws. Strict justice was done in the present case; the aggressor, the challenger, the murderer, was hanged like the meanest felon.

Alexander Campbell was tried at the Armagh assizes, August 13, 1808, for the wilful and felonious murder of Alexander Boyd, captain in the same regiment, by shooting him, the said Alexander Boyd, with a pistol bullet, on the 23d day of June, 1807, in the county of Armagh, in the kingdom of Ireland. This murder was committed in a duel, and it is to be hoped that Campbell's conviction will operate in a great measure to deter others from this evil practice; a practice which, though it bears the fine name of an affair of HONOUR, is, in truth, a foul deed.

The first witness called was George Adams, who deposed that about nine in the evening of the 23d of June, he was sent for in great haste to the deceased, captain Boyd, who since died of a wound he received by a pistol bullet, which had penetrated the extremity of the four false ribs, and lodged in the cavity of the belly. This wound, he could take upon him to say, was the cause of his death. He was sitting on a chair vomiting blood when witness was sent for; he lived about eighteen hours afterwards. Witness staid with him till he died. He was in great pain, tumbled and tossed about in the most extreme agitation. Witness conceived his wound to be mortal from the first moment he examined it. The witness then stated the circumstances which led to the duel; and in so doing repeated the words of the learned counsel.

John Hoey, mess-waiter to the 21st regiment, swore that he went with a message from major Campbell to captain Boyd, by means of which they met.

Lieutenant Macpherson, surgeon Nice, and others, proved the dying words of captain Boyd.

John Greenhill was produced to prove that major Campbell had time to cool after the altercation took place; inasmuch as he went home, drank tea with his family,

family, and gave him a box to leave with lieutenant Hall, before the affair took place.

The defence set up was merely as to the character of the prisoner for humanity, peaceful conduct, and proper behaviour: to this several officers of the highest rank were produced, who vouched for it to the fullest extent; namely, colonel Paterson, of the 21st regiment, general Campbell, general Graham Stirling, captain Macpherson, captain Menzies, colonel Gray, and many others whom it was unnecessary to produce, the depositions of all being the same, and as nearly as possible in the same words.

The learned judge, in his charge, briefly summed up the main points, and thus concluded. It has been very accurately stated to you by the counsel for the prosecution, that the illegal killing a man, by the law of England, must fall within one of the three species—homicide, manslaughter, or murder; and that with homicide you had nothing to do, as the case before you was clearly neither chance-medley, self-defence, or any kind of justifiable homicide. The case, then, must either be manslaughter or murder. Manslaughter is the illegal killing a man under the strong impulse of natural passion. Three qualities are necessary to constitute it. In the first place, the passion must be natural; that is to say, such as is natural to human infirmity under the provocation given;—secondly, the act must be such as the passion naturally, and according to the ordinary course of human actions, would impel;—and thirdly, and indeed mainly, the criminal act must be committed in the actual moment of the passion, *flagrant animo*, as it is termed, and before the mind has time to cool. The act of killing, under such circumstances, is manslaughter. But if any of these circumstances are wanting; if the passion be beyond the provocation—beyond what the provocation should naturally and ordinarily produce; if the act be beyond the passion—beyond what the passion would naturally and ordinarily impel; or if it be not committed in the very moment of the passion, and before the passion either has or should have passed away;—in all of these cases, the act of criminal killing is not manslaughter, but murder. Now to apply this to the present case.—The provocation, as stated

ed by the evidence, consisted in the words, "Do you say I am wrong?"—"Yes, I do;" and the manner in which those words were said. It remains for you, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, whether such provocation was sufficient to constitute that passion, which, under the interpretation of the law, would render the prisoner at the bar guilty of manslaughter only, or whether the consequent passion was not above the provocation, and therefore that the prisoner is guilty of murder. You will consider this coolly in your own judgments, and will remember upon this point the evidence that has been given; that the words were certainly offensively spoken, but that it was in the heat of argument, and that by a candid explanation, as the evidence expressed it, the affair might not have occurred. You will next have to consider, whether the criminal act was committed in the moment, the actual moment, of the passion—or whether the prisoner had time to cool, and to return to the use of his reason. Upon this point, you must keep your attention more particularly fixed on that part of the evidence which goes to state, that major Campbell returned home, took his tea, and executed some domestic arrangements, after the words, and before the meeting. If you are of opinion, either that the provocation, which I have mentioned to you, and which you collect from the evidence, was too slight to excite that violence of passion which the law requires for manslaughter; or that, be the passion and the provocation what it might, still that the prisoner had time to cool, and return to his reason—in either of these cases you are bound upon your oaths to find the prisoner guilty of murder. There is still another point for your serious consideration. It has been correctly stated to you by the counsel, that there is such a thing which is called the point of honour—a principal totally false in itself, and unrecognised both by law and morality; but which from its practical importance, and the mischief attending the disregard of it to the individual concerned, and particularly to a military individual, has usually been taken into consideration by juries, and admitted as a kind of extenuation. But in all such cases, gentlemen of the jury, there have been, and there must be, certain grounds for
such

such indulgent consideration—such departure from the letter and spirit of the law. In the first place, the provocation must be great; in the second place, there must be a perfect fair dealing—the contract, to oppose life to life, must be perfect on both sides, the consent of both must be full, neither of them must be forced into the field:—and thirdly, there must be something of a necessity, a compulsion, to give and take the meeting; the consequence of refusing it being the loss of reputation, and there being no means of honourable reconciliation left. Let me not be mistaken on this serious point. I am not justifying duelling; I am only stating those circumstances of extenuation, which are the only grounds that can justify a jury in dispensing with the letter of the law. You have to consider, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, whether this case has these circumstances of extenuation. You must here recal to your minds the words of the deceased captain Boyd—“You have hurried me—I wanted you to wait and have friends—Campbell, you are a bad man.” These words are very important; and if you deem them sufficiently proved, they certainly do away all extenuation. If you think them proved, the prisoner is most clearly guilty of murder; the deceased will then have been hurried into the field; the contract of opposing life to life could not have been perfect. It is important likewise, in this part of your consideration, that you should revert to the provocation, and to the evidence which stated that the words were offensively spoken, so as not to be passed over; but that the affair would not have happened, if there had been a candid explanation. Gentlemen of the jury, you will consider these points, and make up your verdict accordingly.

The jury then retired, and, after remaining about half an hour out of court, returned with their verdict—Guilty of Murder; but recommended him to mercy on the score of character only. Sentence of death was immediately passed on the unfortunate gentleman, and he was ordered for execution on the Monday; but, in consequence of the recommendation of the jury, was respited till the Wednesday se’nnight. In the mean time every effort was made by the friends of the unfortunate man to procure
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the royal mercy. Mrs. Campbell, his lady, departed immediately for England, to solicit in person the royal clemency, and the grand jury of the county, and the jury who had found him guilty, presented petitions to the lord lieutenant of Dublin. In the mean time Mrs. Campbell, his amiable lady, after the most incredible fatigues and exertions, had reached England, and procured her petition to be delivered into the hands of his majesty. The respite expired on the 23d of August, and an order was sent from Dublin castle to Armagh, for the execution of the unfortunate gentleman on the 24th. His deportment, during the whole of the melancholy interval between his condemnation and the day of his execution, was manly, but penitent; such as became a Christian towards his approaching dissolution. When he was informed that all efforts to procure a pardon had failed, he was only anxious for the immediate execution of the sentence. He had repeatedly implored that he might be shot; but, as this was not suitable to the forms of the common law, his entreaties were of course without success.

He was led out for execution on Wednesday the 24th of August, just as the clock struck twelve. He was attended by Dr. Bowie, and in the whole of his deportment was manifest a pious resignation, and a penitent habit of mind. A vast crowd had collected around the scene of the catastrophe: he surveyed them a moment, then turned his head towards Heaven with a look of prayer. As soon as he appeared, the whole of the attending guards, and such of the soldiery as were spectators, took off their caps; upon which the major saluted them in turn. This spectacle was truly distressing, and tears and shrieks burst from several parts of the crowd. When the executioner approached to fix the cord, major Campbell again looked up to Heaven. There was now the most profound silence. The executioner seemed paralyzed whilst performing this last act of his duty. There was scarcely a dry eye out of so many thousands assembled. The crowd seemed thunderstruck when the unfortunate gentleman was at length turned off. Every aspect wore the trace of grief. Perhaps no case has ever occurred, in which the sympathy of the people was more strong. The soldiery,



JAMES HARDY VAUX.

soldiery, in particular, were most strongly affected. Many a hard visage was softened by the descending tear.

After hanging the usual time, the body was put into a hearse in waiting. This melancholy vehicle left the town immediately, to convey the last remains of the unfortunate gentleman to the family depository at Ayr, in Scotland. This catastrophe is rendered still more piteous by the unhappy circumstance, that Mrs. Campbell had indulged her hopes to the last, and left London, exactly at such a period of time, as to arrive at Ayr on the day on which her husband's corpse would necessarily reach that place.

JAMES HARDY VAUX,

TRANSPORTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THE adventures of Hardy Vaux are nothing inferior to those of the renowned Spanish rogue, Guzman d'Alfarache; and, like him, he has given the world a narrative of his exploits, wherein philosophers may read the workings of an unprincipled conscience, the legislator discover the operations of laws upon the criminal's mind, and the citizen learn to detect the frauds by which he is so easily and constantly beset. From Vaux's well-written memoir we shall make occasional extracts, and give the reader an abridgment of those parts which are of least interest.

James Hardy Vaux was born at Guildford, Surrey, in the year 1782. His father was a foreigner, and was in the employ of a Mr. Sumner, as cook and house-steward. His mother was daughter of a Mr. Lowe, a solicitor, and married Vaux much against the wish of her parents and friends, who were not only numerous, but respectable. The issue of this imprudent marriage was one son, James Hardy Vaux, and two daughters.

In 1785 Mr. Lowe retired from business, and on going to live in the country he took with him his little grandson, whom he treated with parental fondness; sent him to school; and gave him a liberal education, such as to qualify him for his own profession. Mrs. Vaux's first imprudence had partially alienated the affections of her

parents, and her subsequent conduct did not tend to restore their good opinion. Young Vaux, therefore, was entirely abandoned to the care of his grandfather and grandmother, and he complains that his natural parents never treated him with any thing like a proper affection. In early life Vaux was addicted to desultory reading, the consequence of which was an instability of conduct through life, unfixed in purpose and undetermined in action.

After six years' residence in the country, Mr. Lowe was prevailed upon to come and live with his daughter and son-in-law, who had commenced the hat business at Great Turnstile, Holborn. Young Vaux, being at this time nine years old, was sent to a respectable boarding-school at Stockwell; and his sisters were sent to one equally genteel, where they learned the rudiments of a polite education.

After spending three years at school, he returned to his grandfather, who had quitted, in consequence of family disagreements, the house of his son-in-law, and then resided in one of the squares. Mrs. Lowe's health declining, the family removed to Wisbeach, Cambridge-shire, where they continued for some time, and again returned to their original residence in S——shire, young Vaux being then fourteen years of age. Here he became acquainted with the son of John Maultrie, Esq. and, on that youth's removal to college, his father proposed to pay for Vaux to accompany him; but his indecision and obstinacy rendered the proffered kindness of no avail. The army or navy was his ambition; but, as his grandfather would not consent to his entering either of these professions, the desire was abandoned, and, after much hesitation, he was ultimately bound an apprentice to Parker and Co. linen-draper, at Liverpool.

As this step may be called his first entrance into life, we will let him speak for himself, as his conduct in his first situation clearly intimates his character, while it forcibly reminds youth of the danger they run in yielding to the first incentives to crime. "I was now," says Hardy Vaux, "turned of fourteen; my health and constitution good, my spirits elevated, and I felt

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felt all those pleasing sensations which naturally arise in a youthful mind, happy in conscious innocence, and flattered by the prospect of rising to honourable independence. The gaiety and bustle of this beautiful and improving borough at once charmed and amused me; I spent a week in viewing the public buildings, the environs, &c.; but, above all, my admiration was excited by the numerous and capacious docks, by which ships of large burden are admitted, as it were, into the heart of the town, and discharge their rich and varied cargoes with surprising facility, which are deposited in spacious warehouses, of amazing extent, and from twelve to fourteen stories high, with which these noble docks are nearly surrounded.

“The opportunities I had, during my residence in Liverpool, of viewing the daily arrivals and sailings of merchant ships to and from all parts of the world, particularly the Guineamen, which formed a remarkably fine class of vessels,* revived the latent desire I had for a seafaring life; and I wanted but little incitement, had the smallest opportunity offered, to take French leave of my masters, and gratify my rambling propensity. However, the bustle in which I was continually involved, and the new scenes of amusement which every succeeding day presented, suppressed the inclination for a time; but that it was not totally subdued will be seen hereafter.

“The establishment and economy of our house were upon the most regular plan; the former consisted of six apprentices, (including myself,) and four assistants, at very liberal stipends, besides a nephew of the elder partner, who superintended the whole, and officiated in the counting-house; there were also several porters, and other subordinates, for all of whom full employment was found. Being the junior apprentice, it was my province to polish the counters, trim the lamps, carry out small parcels, and to perform other inferior duties; when disengaged from which I assisted in waiting on the retail customers, and making myself otherwise useful behind the counter. We had a plentiful table appropriated for us, to which we retired in turn during the hours of

* This was prior to the abolition of the slave trade.

business ; commodious and airy chambers ; and, in short, enjoyed every comfort we could desire.

“ For the first month of my probation I behaved extremely well, and by my quickness and assiduity gained the good opinion of my employers, who wrote of me in the most favourable terms to my friends in S——shire ; nor did my expenses exceed my allowance for pocket-money, which was fully adequate to every rational enjoyment.

“ Among my fellow-apprentices was a young man named King, some years older than myself, with whom, from a similarity of sentiments, I formed a close intimacy. He was of an excellent disposition, but a great lover of pleasure ; and as his servitude was far advanced, and his prospects peculiarly flattering, he was under very little restraint, but gave the rein to his passion for dissipation. His expenses were profuse, but whether he indulged in them at the expense of his probity I could never ascertain. He soon introduced me to several young men of his own stamp, and I became in a short time as great a rake as the best of them ; nor was our conversation confined to our own sex, scarcely a night passing without our visiting one or other of those houses consecrated to the Cyprian goddess, with which the town of Liverpool abounds. In such a course of life, it is not likely that I could submit to limited hours ; my companion and I seldom returned home before midnight, and sometimes not till the ensuing morning. Though we took measures to keep this from the ears of our employers, it could not fail to be known in time ; and the consequence was, a strong but tender remonstrance on my imprudence, which much affected me at the moment ; but the impression was transitory, and soon effaced. I plunged deeper and deeper in the vortex of folly and dissipation, until I was obliged to have recourse for advice to the *Æsculapius* of Gilead House.

“ This irregular mode of life had borne hard on my finances, but I had not, as yet, had recourse to fraud or speculation. I was liberally supplied by my relations, on leaving S——shire, and had received my first quarterly allowance ; but an event, which soon followed, tempted

tempted me to the first breach of confidence and integrity.

“ I had in my youth been passionately fond of cocking, a sport for which the county of S—— has been always famed ; and, though so young, I had constantly kept several cocks at walk, unknown to my parents ; so that I had acquired a considerable share of experience and knowledge on the subject. One day, when I was sent with some muslins to wait on a lady in the environs of Liverpool, near the canal, I accidentally passed a cock-pit, where a great crowd was assembled ; and I understood that a grand main was about to commence. Elated at this pleasing intelligence, I hastened to execute my commission ; and returning to the house, entered it, and, leaving my wrapper of goods in the care of the landlady, I ascended to the pit, and took my seat. The company was, as usual, of a motley description ; but there were many genteel persons. I ventured a few trifling bets at first with various success ; but at length an opportunity offering, which I considered as next to a certainty, I laid the odds to a large amount, flattering myself that, by this stroke of judgment, I should be enabled to figure away with increased eclat among my gay companions. After I had so done, greater odds were still vociferated ; but in a moment the scene was changed ! the fallen cock, in the agonies of death, made a desperate effort, and, rising for a moment, cut the throat of his antagonist, who was standing over him, in the act of crowing with exultation on his victory ! The latter immediately fell, choked with the effusion of blood, nor did the victor survive him many moments. The whole pit resounded with acclamation, and the discord which ensued beggars description. I was not the only sufferer by this revolution of fortune ; many others had laid higher odds than myself, and to a much greater amount. I was soon surrounded by my creditors, to whom I disbursed every shilling I had about me, among which were some pounds I had just received from the lady for goods, and for which I had given her a receipt. I was still something deficient, for which I pledged my honour to one of the parties, giving my address, and promising payment on
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an early day. I now returned home, filled with remorse and shame ; but, as the first false step of a young person insensibly leads to another, I added to my guilt by concealing the affair from my employers, and directed them to book the articles the lady had selected. I had a degree of false shame about me, which rendered me incapable of confessing the truth and promising amendment, or all might still have been well. In the evening I had recourse to the bottle to drown my chagrin ; and I determined to purloin a certain sum every day, in the course of my attendance on retail customers, until I had liquidated my debt of honour ! Then I vowed to stop and reform. Delusive idea ! how little did I then know my own weakness, or the futility of such resolutions in a young mind ! And who, that once begins a career of vice, can say to himself, ‘ Thus far will I go, and no farther ? ’ After I had discharged my engagement I found a small sum must be raised for pocket-money, and other exigencies, as it would be above two months before I could expect a remittance.

“ I therefore continued my speculation, and at length my evil genius suggested to me, that I might, by venturing a small sum, become more fortunate at the cock-pit, and repair the loss I had sustained ; as miracles don’t happen every day, and the odds must win in the long run. Thus I argued with myself ; and, fatally for me, I tried the experiment.

“ From this moment I never missed a day’s fighting at the cock-pit ; and when sent on business which required my speedy return, I could not tear myself from the spot, but frequently staid out several hours, and afterwards forged a lie to account for my delay. I sometimes came off a winner ; but, as I was not then acquainted with the art of hedging, by which the knowing ones commonly save themselves, I was sure to be a loser at every week’s end.

“ I managed matters so well, indeed, that my frequent secretions from the till were not discovered, however they might be suspected. The extensive trade of the shop rendered it next to impossible ; and what I abstracted was a trifle compared to the gross receipts of the day.

“ My

“ My continued misconduct became now the subject of frequent remonstrances on the part of Mr. Parker, the resident partner ; which not having had the desired effect, that gentleman wrote to my friends, informing them in general terms that I had unhappily formed improper connexions, and that my late levity of conduct rendered me unfit to be received into their house ; therefore desiring I might be recalled without delay. Mr. Parker concluded with a remark, which I shall never forget, and which was peculiarly gratifying to my grandfather's (perhaps too partial) feelings : after expatiating on my general capacity for business, he added ‘ his smartness and activity are really wonderful.’ This letter produced a speedy answer, in consequence of which I was directed to hasten my departure, which took place in a few days, Mr. Parker giving me a great deal of wholesome advice at parting ; observing that, although it was not in his power to charge me with any direct criminality, my inconsiderate behaviour, and the continued excesses of my conduct, left but too much room for unfavourable conjectures.

“ Behold me now returned to my grandfather, after an absence of nearly five months ; and this excursion may be called my first entrance into life. I could not help blushing at the consciousness of my own unworthiness ; but the blind partiality of my dear parents induced them to believe me less culpable than I really was, and to listen readily to any thing I had to offer in palliation of my errors.”

Having now tasted the vicious cup of pleasure, Vaux found a village too limited a sphere for his ambition, and accordingly resolved to try his fortune in London. His grandfather, having many friends in his own profession, gave his grandson letters of introduction, which, on his arrival in the metropolis, procured him a situation as copying clerk in a solicitor's office. Being in the actual possession of talents, which he too often perverted, Vaux soon acquired a complete knowledge of criminal law, which was afterwards of great service, or rather disservice to him. Resolving to be master of his own conduct, he did not visit the house of his father, who by
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this time had tried many businesses, but was unfortunate in all; but took private lodgings, and for three months conducted himself with great propriety. But, getting acquainted with several young persons of both sexes, he gradually became dissipated, visited the theatres, and became irregular in his attendances at his office, in consequence of which he was formally dismissed.

Finding it still necessary to have some employment, he procured, through one of his dissipated companions, the son of a wealthy citizen, a situation, as clerk, in the warehouse of Messrs. Key and Sons, wholesale stationers, in Abchurch Lane, Lombard Street, at a guinea a week. Here, however, he continued but for a short time; for he could not endure a confinement in the east end, so far from the resort of his old acquaintances, who chiefly frequented Covent Garden and the purlieus of Drury Lane.

“During an abode,” says he, “of ten months in London, as I was frequently pushed for money, I availed myself of a genteel appearance, and pretty good address; and, taking advantage of the credulity of several tradesmen in the neighbourhood, I ordered wearing apparel of various kinds, and sometimes other goods, upon credit, without much concern about the day of payment; however, I always took care to procure a bill of parcels with the articles, which precluded any charge of fraud, and left the matter, at the worst, but a debt contracted; for which, being a minor, I knew I could not be arrested. This was my first deviation from honesty since I left Liverpool. I was also frequently obliged to change my lodgings; and, as payment of my rent would have required ready money, for which I had so many other uses, I commonly decamped under favour of the night, having previously removed my effects by various stratagem. As I was ashamed to let my grandfather know the true state of my affairs, and as I really grieved at the expenses I had already caused him, which I knew had much inconvenienced him, I forbore at last to trouble him for remittances; but falsely assured him that I was doing well, and enabled to live upon the profits of my industry. I desired he would abandon the idea of articleing me to
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the law, as the expenses attending admission had of late years been so much increased by stamp duties ; and as I could, if I continued the study, at a future period, practise under the sanction of another person's name ; a custom then very prevalent, though irregular. By these assurances I quieted the good old man, and silenced any inquiries my friends might have instituted respecting me ; as I now really wished to continue free from all restraint upon my person or actions, and foolishly flattered myself that I should, by some lucky event, ultimately secure the means of independence. These conjectures were, however, perfectly vague, and proceeding from no fixed idea whatever.

“ On quitting my city employment, I returned to the law, for which I still retained a partiality ; and obtained a more liberal salary than before in an office equally respectable. Indeed I was now become more useful, and had improved much, both in person and address, since my arrival in town.

“ I was still frequently reduced to pecuniary straits, and obliged to have recourse to various expedients, known only to men of the town, for my support : some of them, indeed, were bordering on dishonesty, and none of them very honourable. But to describe them individually is impossible ; and a man *who lives by his wits*, as the phrase is, will assure you, if called to account, that he really could not for his life tell by what distinct means he makes out a living.

“ As I now wrote uncommonly fast, I quitted the station of a weekly clerk, and obtained writings to copy by the sheet, from the law-stationers, by which I could earn considerably more money ; and in this employment I continued to labour diligently for several hours every day, and sometimes half the night.

“ When I had a mind to relax from this occupation, and particularly if my finances were at a low ebb, I frequently resorted to the Blue Lion, in Gray's Inn Lane, a house noted for selling fine ale, and crowded every night by a motley assemblage of visitors, among whom were many thieves, sharpers, and other desperate characters, with their doxies. I was introduced to this house (from

which hundreds of young persons may date their ruin) by a fellow clerk, who appeared to have a personal intimacy with most of these obnoxious persons; however, though I listened eagerly to their conversation, (part of which was then unintelligible to me,) and fancied them people of uncommon spirit, I was not yet sufficiently depraved to cultivate their acquaintance; but sat with a pipe in my mouth, enveloped in smoke, ruminating, like a philosopher, on the various characters who tread the great stage of life, and felt a sort of secret presentiment that I was myself born to undergo a more than common share of vicissitudes and disappointments."

During his nightly resort to the Blue Lion he became acquainted with a young man named D——, who had been steward on board a king's ship, but who had spent all his money, and now resolved to go to Portsmouth, in the hope of procuring a situation similar to the one he had left. Vaux, naturally inconstant, determined on accompanying him; and, having converted most of their clothes into money, they set off on foot; but had not proceeded farther than Kingston when their cash became exhausted, and they owed a trifle to the mistress of the Eight Bells.

"In this dilemma," says Vaux, "a sudden thought struck me. Calling for pen, ink, and paper, I told my companion I had a scheme in my head for raising a supply, but would not impart it until I had tried its success. I then drew up a sort of memorial to the following effect:—"To the Ladies and Gentlemen of Kingston.—The writer hereof, a young man of respectable family, and good education, having, by a series of misfortunes, been reduced to the greatest distress, is now on his way to Portsmouth, in hopes of procuring a situation in the navy; but, being destitute of money for his present support, humbly solicits your charitable assistance towards enabling him to pursue his journey. To a noble mind, the pleasure of doing a good action is its own reward. The smallest donations will be gratefully received, and any lady or gentleman inclined to relieve the writer is earnestly requested to subscribe his or her name hereto."—Having completed this production,

tion, I desired my friend to wait patiently for my return, and assured him I doubted not of bringing speedy relief. I now set out on my expedition, and immediately waited on Mr. Mayor, who was a grocer; but in this first essay I was unsuccessful. His worship declared he never encouraged applications of this sort from strangers; and desired me to go about my business. I, however, took the liberty of subscribing his name to my memorial, by way of sanction, and gave his charity credit for a donation of five shillings. Young as I was at that time, I well knew that example, in matters of this kind, goes a great way; and that many persons, without a grain of Christian benevolence in their composition, will give liberally from motives of ostentation, when they see that their neighbours have already contributed, and that their own names and donations will also be made public. I experienced the truth of this notion, for I was successful in almost every application I afterwards made. Having visited a number of genteel houses, with various success, I was on the point of returning, to impart my good luck to my companion, when, coming to a very handsome mansion-house in the suburbs of the town, I thought I ought not to omit calling, and a person at that moment passing by, I inquired whose residence it was, and which was the entrance to the premises; for the house was situated in the midst of a spacious pleasure-ground, remote from the high road, and, it being quite dusk, I had not observed any avenue by which I could gain access to it. I was informed that it was the residence of Lady W——; that a little further on I should perceive a door in the brick wall, which extended along the road-side; and that if I entered at that door, and proceeded in a straight direction, I should arrive at the servants' hall; but my informer cautioned me to keep close to another wall on my left hand, which divided this avenue from the lawn in front of the mansion, because there was a very large and fierce dog at the upper end, but which, being chained up, could not reach me, if I followed the above directions. I thanked this obliging person, and immediately proceeded to the door described, which I entered, and walked cautiously, and not without some fear, by the

wall-side, till I perceived, by the lights in the kitchen and out-offices, that I was near the premises.

“ It was now very dark, and I was carefully exploring my way, my mind full of apprehensions at the thought of this terrible dog; when lo! at that instant, to my inexpressible consternation, the ferocious animal made a spring at me, and I gave myself up for dead. However, though he was certainly within a yard of me, he did me no mischief; but my alarm was so great, that, without knowing how or where to fly for refuge, I ran precipitately from the spot; and, when I recovered myself from the fright, found myself in the pleasure-ground in front of the mansion-house. It appeared that I had, without knowing, escaped through a door in the wall, which was open on my left hand at the moment I was alarmed by the dog. I was now more at a loss than ever, for I knew of no way to get out of the pleasure-ground except by the aforesaid door, and fear of the dog prevented my attempting that passage. After wandering about for a few minutes, I approached the mansion, and, going up to one of the parlour windows, which were very large, and on a level with the terrace before the house, I applied my eye to the glass, and discovered, through an aperture in the inside shutters, a numerous and splendid party of ladies and gentlemen at dinner. Having considered a moment, I determined on a very bold step, as I saw no alternative but remaining all night in the open air, exposed to the inclemency of the weather. Taking advantage of a pause in the company’s conversation, I tapped with my finger at the window, and immediately the whole party were struck with wonder. In the midst of their surprise I repeated my knock; and then, after several voices exclaiming ‘ Good God! there is certainly somebody at the window,’ &c. a gentleman rose from the table, and, advancing towards me, opened first the shutters, and then the window itself, which might, in fact, be called a pair of folding-doors; and these being thrown back, I walked in with the most respectful air I could assume, and presented myself to the astonished company. Having bowed twice or thrice, and given time for their alarm to subside, I began to make my speech.

“ Apologizing

“ Apologizing for my presumptuous intrusion, I stated, in a concise manner, the fright I had endured from the dog, my embarrassment at not being able to find means of egress from the pleasure-ground, and my having consequently taken the liberty of knocking at the window. I then presented my memorial, which was read in turn by most of the company, each of whom surveyed me with evident surprise. Having answered such queries as they thought proper to put to me, I was desired by the lady of the house to withdraw to the kitchen for a short time; and a servant was ordered to attend me thither. Here I had my story to repeat for the information of the domestics, who laughed heartily at the adventure of the dog, but afterwards seriously assured me that, had the animal not been chained, or had I approached within his reach, he would inevitably have torn me to pieces. The parlour dinner being over, and the dishes brought out, I was desired to fall to; and, being really hungry, I wanted no pressing, but selected from the variety of good things on the table a very fine buttock of beef, on which substantial fare I made a sumptuous meal. There was no scarcity of good malt liquor, and Lady W—— very kindly sent me out a pint of red port, with a particular injunction (which, by-the-by, was unnecessary) that I should eat and drink heartily.

“ At length I was summoned to attend the company in the parlour; and her ladyship then expressing her concern for my misfortunes, and her anxious hope that I should speedily find an end to them, presented me with half a guinea. The rest of the party also said many handsome things, and the majority of them contributed to my relief. In addition to these favours, one of the gentlemen, at the particular request of Lady W——, took the trouble to write a letter in my behalf to the captain of a man-of-war, supposed to be then lying at Portsmouth, entreating him to give me an appointment under him. Her ladyship, after obliging me to take another glass of wine, and repeating her sorrow for my distress, advised me to lose no time in prosecuting my journey, ordered a servant to conduct me to the door at which

which I had first entered her premises, and I took a respectful leave of this truly benevolent party.

“Returning to the Eight Bells, I imparted my adventures to my friend, who was, of course, much pleased at my success; for I had realized between four and five pounds. I found this begging scheme so productive, that I was in no hurry to pursue the Portsmouth speculation; and, as we were both satisfied with our present quarters, it was agreed that we should continue a few days longer in Kingston, in which time I proposed to follow up my success by making a regular circuit among the inhabitants; and I, in fact, determined to levy similar contributions in every town which lay in our route.

“It is to be observed that this idea of raising money was perfectly original in me, for at that time I had never heard of such a practice, but have since discovered that it is a very common expedient, and is called, by those persons who live by such impositions, ‘*the Letter Racket.*’

“The following day I again sallied forth, and met with equal success, visiting not only the houses of private persons, but even the respectable shopkeepers, &c.; and I may here state, once for all, that in the course of this, as well as my subsequent speculations of the same nature, I met with various receptions, according to the charitable or churlish dispositions of the people to whom I applied. Many pitied my case, and cheerfully relieved me. Others expressed equal commiseration but declined giving any, either because ‘they never encouraged beggars,’ or ‘they had poor enough of their own to maintain.’ Some invited me into their parlours, treated me with excessive politeness, and obliged me to take refreshment at their own tables; and, where there were any young ladies in the family, I was an object of particular solicitude, and the recital of my misfortunes drew many a sigh from their tender bosoms. Others desired me, like the Mayor of Kingston, to go about my business, and hinted that I ought to be sent to the house of correction as a vagrant. Sometimes the servants who admitted me refused to present my memorial,

rial, declaring they had strict orders from their masters or mistresses never to trouble them on such an occasion. The donations I commonly received were from one shilling to five; sometimes, but rarely, I was presented with gold, particularly at the seats of the nobility and gentry; all which, lying within a short distance of the road I travelled, I made a point of calling at; and for my information on this subject, I provided myself with a comprehensive 'Book of Roads,' in which those objects are correctly laid down. Some truly charitable persons, but whose means were limited, relieved me with sixpence, and of course I was bound to accept such a trifle with as much appearance of thankfulness as I would a larger sum; and frequently, when I called at a farmhouse by the road-side, I have been compelled to take some cold meat, or other eatables, which I afterwards bestowed upon the first more needy beggar I met on my way. It was my custom in general to travel on foot, making short stages, and putting up at a good inn in every town I entered, where I lived upon the best during my stay, and associated with London riders, and other respectable guests. When tired of walking, I availed myself of a passing stage-coach, or return post-chaise; and my only equipage was a spare shirt, handkerchief, &c. which, with my 'Book of Roads,' I carried in a small bundle under my arm."

On the evening of the second day, however, he was arrested and carried before the magistrates, charged as a rogue and vagabond. He referred the magistrates to one of his grandfather's friends in London; and the inquiries there satisfying them, he was discharged out of custody on the second day of confinement, and hastened back to town, his companion having proceeded to Portsmouth. After spending one dissipated evening in London, he set out next day for Portsmouth; and, notwithstanding the check he had received three days before, he stopped in Kingston, and levied contributions, in the usual way, on the charitable inhabitants, avoiding, of course, that part of the town where he had been before. This practice he continued on the road, and, after the expenses of a fortnight's journey, he had fifteen pounds remaining on his arrival

arrival in Portsmouth. His friend D—— had procured a situation as merchant's clerk ; and his own fervour for the navy having cooled, he entered the service of an attorney, as writing clerk, in which capacity he lived for some time very comfortably ; but through the envy of a fellow scribe he lost his situation, being decoyed into an act of harmless indiscretion.

He had endeavoured, while in the attorney's service, to procure clothes, &c. from tradesmen ; but they were on their guard, and Vaux left Portsmouth, indebted only to his landlady and a coffee-house keeper. On his road to London he levied contributions on the charitable, and was so successful, that on his arrival in the metropolis he was in the possession of ten pounds, a sum which was quickly dissipated ; after which he had recourse to the pawnbrokers.

Notwithstanding his late vicious courses, a fortunate event, such as happen but to few, now opened to him an honourable career, but which, in the end, he converted into one of disgrace and ruin. Dining one day at the Saracen's Head, on Snow Hill, he got into conversation with a Mr. Kennedy, a surgeon in the navy. This gentleman was so pleased with Vaux, that he wrote a letter in his favour to Captain Dacres, and proposed his entering the navy as midshipman. To this Vaux immediately and gladly consented. The surgeon gave him a letter to the commanding officer at Sheerness ; and on Vaux's arrival there he was received with welcome. Delighted with the prospect now before him, he urged his grandfather to second his wishes, and in a short time he was appointed midshipman in the *Astræa* frigate, his friends having furnished him with one hundred pounds towards the necessary expenses ; for at this time his extravagance had seriously injured his grandfather's circumstances.

The pleasure arising from the novelty of his situation was soon over, and the inconstant mind of Vaux began to grow weary of a seafaring life ; for he found all the bad passions of human nature in full operation, even in the limited circle of a midshipman's birth. The captain being in want of a clerk, Vaux offered his service, and in his new occupation found himself more happy. After a long
cruise

cruise in the northern seas, they made for Great Britain, and on their arrival in the Thames, Vaux came to London, when he got infatuated with a dashing Cyprian, whom he met at one of the theatres. For this woman he quitted his ship the night she was about to sail, and came to London; by which mad act he forfeited his pay, and lost his clothes, books, &c. With this girl he lived for a few weeks; and on the very night on which he had exchanged his last guinea she was forcibly taken from their lodgings by her afflicted father, a respectable citizen. The unfortunate girl, it appeared, had been seduced, while at school, by a captain in the army, who had subsequently abandoned her. Ashamed to return to her friends, she had recourse to indiscriminate prostitution, until Vaux met with her. Her miserable father, having discovered her retreat, procured two Bow Street officers, and on this night rushed into the apartment, where she was sitting on a sofa, beside her paramour. As she had refused to give her real name, Vaux never discovered what became of her; for, so secretly was the whole affair managed, that even the officers who assisted were ignorant of the citizen's name.

Vaux, now driven to the greatest distress, had recourse to the gambling-table, where, for a short time, he contrived, by associating with professed gamblers, to procure a precarious existence. But the summer approaching, and dupes becoming fewer, he obtained, by application to Messrs. Dalton and Edwards, King's Bench Walk, a situation, as clerk, at one pound a week, with Mr. Dalton, of Bury St. Edmunds, to which place he went directly, and where he found every thing agreeable and comfortable. "Upon the whole," says he, "this was one of the most agreeable employments I ever engaged in; and, had I prudently retained it for a few years, there is no doubt I should have met with the most liberal encouragement from my employer. But my natural inconstancy still prevailed; and I had been but a few weeks at Bury, before I grew tired of the country, and thought of nothing but returning to London, with such spoil as I could obtain from the credulity of the tradesmen in the town. With this view I bespoke clothes,

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boots, linen, and other articles, at various shops, informing the parties that I should expect credit till the expiration of my quarter, to which, on account of the respectable gentleman I served, they readily consented. As soon as any of these goods were brought home, I immediately packed them up in small portable parcels, which I sent up to London by the coach, consigned to a pawnbroker, with whom I was on intimate terms; desiring him to receive and keep them safe until he saw me. I also coached off, in the same clandestine manner, such of my own apparel, &c. as I had in my trunk, in which, to prevent discovery, I deposited stones or bricks, to preserve its gravity. By these means I had nothing to impede my sudden departure, when rendered necessary by the arrival of the expected quarter-day.

“ I must here observe, to meet any surprise the reader might feel on the subject, that, as I had never at this time been connected with downright thieves, so I had never yet committed an actual theft, save the embezzlement of money at Liverpool; (which indeed the law has lately made a felonious taking;) though I therefore scrupled not practising a fraud, I was not yet sufficiently depraved to commit a robbery. This will account for my not robbing the premises of Mr. Dalton, which, at a subsequent period of my life, would have been my primary object, as I had access to every part of the house, and have frequently viewed, with longing eyes, the servant cleaning a handsome service of plate in the pantry.

“ I had now been about two months at Bury, and had no intention of absconding till the expiration of the third; when an accidental event induced me to hasten my departure. One afternoon Mr. Dalton had written several letters in the office, and, the footman being elsewhere engaged, he requested me to drop them in the Post-office, in my way home. I accordingly brought them out in my hand, and, happening inadvertently to cast my eye on the superscriptions, I perceived that one was addressed to Mr. Lyne, tailor, Cecil Street, Strand, London. Being curious to know what correspondence Mr. Dalton could have with a tailor, I opened this letter, and

and found the contents to the following effect:—‘ Mr. Lyne,—By the waggon which goes from hence on Monday next, and arrives at the Blue Boar in Bishops-gate Street on Wednesday night, I shall send you a portmanteau, corded and sealed, but not locked, containing two coats, sixteen waistcoats, fourteen pair of breeches, and a suit of uniform of the City Light Horse.* Most of these articles are nearly as good as new; but, as they have now become unfashionable, I desire you will dispose of them to the best advantage, on my account, and send me down by the same conveyance two suits made in the present taste,’ &c.

“ It immediately struck me, that, if I took measures accordingly, I might arrive in town time enough to intercept and obtain this trunk from the inn; for which purpose I put this letter in my pocket, and the others in the post-office. The next day, happening to go into Mr. Dalton’s kitchen, I there saw the portmanteau corded up, and directed; and, on questioning the servant in a careless manner about it, he informed me that he was going to carry it to the — Inn, the following evening, in readiness for the departure of the waggon. The same afternoon it happened (which was a most fortunate circumstance for me) that Mr. Dalton again begged of me to put some letters in the post-office, which he had not done above twice or thrice since I came into his service. Looking at these letters, I saw, to my surprise, another addressed to Mr. Lyne as before, which, eagerly opening, I found was to mention something Mr. Dalton said he had forgot in his letter of the preceding day. I immediately destroyed this second letter, which, had it come to hand, might have frustrated my design.

“ I now prepared matters for eloping, and sent off the remainder of my effects by the coach, as before; but my good fortune produced another windfall, of which I had no expectation. The day before my intended departure, I was walking in the Market-place with a young man, who was clerk to another attorney in the town; and, the

* It appears from this that Mr. Dalton had formerly resided in London, and been a member of that respectable corps.

conversation turning upon watches, my companion observed that, if I wished to purchase one, he would introduce me to a maker of his acquaintance, who would use me well on his account. I took him at his word, and begged he would immediately do so. We were then within a few doors of the shop, into which we entered; and I perceived over the window, in large characters, 'Lumley and *Gudgeon*, Watchmakers.' I laughed inwardly at the singularity of the latter name, which I considered ominous of my success in the imposition I meant to put upon him. After a short preliminary conversation, my acquaintance, having business to do, took his leave, and Mr. Gudgeon himself proceeded to show me several watches. I informed him that I wished to have a good one, but my circumstances would not allow me to go to a high price. Mr. Gudgeon assured me it was better to have a good one at once, and recommended to me a very handsome gilt watch, capped and jewelled, and his own make, which he said he could warrant to perform well, and for which he asked me eight guineas. I replied that, as my weekly salary from Mr. Dalton was but one pound, I could not afford to give so much, and began to examine others of a cheaper kind, but still letting him see that I had a strong inclination for the one he had recommended. This induced him to repeat his praises of the latter, and to press me with greater energy to fix upon it. I at length (with a show of much reluctance) suffered myself to be persuaded; but I begged leave to observe, that as I was influenced in every thing by the advice of my good master, Mr. Dalton, I would not venture to make so extensive a purchase without his approbation: that, if he would therefore intrust me with the watch, I would consult Mr. Dalton, and give him (Mr. Gudgeon) a decisive answer the next morning: this he declared himself willing to do, on which I took both the watch and my leave together, and returned home.

"The next morning I attended the office as usual, but of course took no notice to Mr. Dalton of the affair in hand. During the space of time I allotted myself for dinner, I again called on Mr. Gudgeon, and told him that

that I would keep the watch, provided he should receive the payment by instalments, as I could not afford to pay the whole price at once. I therefore proposed to give him the ensuing Saturday one or two guineas, as I should find most convenient, and to pay him half a guinea a week afterwards, until the whole was liquidated. To this he readily agreed, and, having fitted a key to the watch, he begged leave to show me some chains and seals. Of the former he had none but gilt ones: I selected one of the neatest, and a handsome gold seal. I then desired to have a bill of parcels of the whole, observing that, whenever I paid a sum upon account, Mr. Gudgeon could make a memorandum of it at the bottom by way of receipt. Having obtained this, I departed, promising to be punctual in paying my first instalment on the day appointed. This took place on Tuesday, the portmanteau being now on its way to London; and the same evening I quitted my lodgings privately, leaving nothing behind but a trunk, containing brickbats and stones, and walked by moonlight to a village four miles distant, through which the stage-coach was to pass the next morning at seven o'clock. I procured some supper at a decent public-house, and retired to rest, desiring to be called in time for the coach. At the expected hour the stage made its appearance, in which I seated myself, and about eight the same evening arrived at the Blue Boar, just two hours after the waggon, which I perceived standing in the yard."

The portmanteau he received with little difficulty, and soon disposed of its contents in various ways, and lived upon the produce for five or six weeks; at the termination of which he thought it right to look out for a situation. He found one in the office of Mr. Preston, solicitor; and Vaux, with the imprudence of dishonest persons, entered upon it, though next door to Dalton and Edwards, who had sent him down to Bury St. Edmund's. Vaux was seen by a clerk of Messrs. Dalton and Edwards, and, being called into the parlour of Mr. Preston one morning, he was surprised by seeing his late master, who snatched the watch out of his fob, and promised to restore it to the owner. Vaux was then
taken

taken into custody ; but a friend of his grandfather having come forward, indemnified Mr. Dalton for his loss, he was suffered to go at large, on a promise that he would quit London, where he was likely to come to disgrace and infamy, and endeavour to procure employment in the country.

The country had no charms for Vaux, and therefore he did not quit London, but set about procuring a situation in some retail shop, for the sole purpose of embezzling the receipts. In consequence of an advertisement in a newspaper, he applied to Mr. Gifford, proprietor of an extensive habit and masquerade warehouse in Tavistock Street, who was in want of a shopman. The mercer was pleased with the affected innocence and simplicity of Vaux, who represented himself as just arrived from Portsmouth, where he had done business for a Mr. Drake, in Mary Street, who was ready to vouch for his character. Mr. Gifford promised to write to Vaux's fictitious employer, and, if the answer was favourable, he was to be received into the house. Vaux employed the mail-coach guard to bring him the letter from Portsmouth, saying his name was Drake ; and, on receiving it, he fabricated an answer, and had it conveyed through the same channel to Mr. Gifford, who, on receipt, installed Vaux his shopman.

In Mr. Gifford's shop there was very little retail business done, and consequently Vaux could not defraud his employer by secreting the receipts. He, however, resolved to be dishonest, and occasionally carried out under his coat cards of lace, containing twenty pounds' worth, which he sold to a Jew salesman in the same street, for one guinea. He continued this course of pillage for two months, when he resolved to quit the house, carrying with him all the property he could lay his hand on. To prepare for this final stroke, he had a box made, and sent to lodgings which he procured in a distant part of the town, and from time to time he conveyed there the property of Messrs. Gifford and Co. Previous to his departure he had collected, from customers, all the money he could, and had copied out accounts to collect after he should quit the employ.

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On the Saturday preceding his departure he was sent home with a dress to a lady ; but, in place of taking it as directed, he went and pledged it for one pound ten shillings, with a pawnbroker in Drury Lane. Next day he quitted Mr. Gifford, whom he had robbed to a considerable amount, and went to his lodging, where he calculated on having sixty pounds in money and value.

Vaux now entered upon a scene of dissipation ; frequented the theatres, flash-houses, &c. and sought pleasure wherever money was to procure it. But the enjoyments of the vicious are always short and uncertain. Vaux, in the course of a fortnight, was apprehended, while buying some silk handkerchiefs at a pawnbroker's, and committed to Newgate for obtaining goods under false pretences, having, after leaving Mr. Gifford, procured some cloth from a shop where he was in the habit of going for his master. His other villanies were also discovered, and his lodgings searched ; but he braved his accusers, and, at the quarter-sessions, was acquitted, from some informality in the indictment.

After his discharge Vaux met one of his fellow-prisoners, named Bromley, with whom, for the first time, he went out thieving ; and in the course of a short time practised successively all the arts of fraud known to the thieves of London. At length Bromley was detected picking a gentleman's pocket, and Vaux not being, at the time, far from him, they were taken into custody, carried before the lord-mayor, and committed to Newgate. Of this charge Vaux was, in point of fact, innocent, as he had expressly forbidden his companion to pick pockets on that day, and was, at the time, several yards from him ; but the constable who arrested them swore they were in company, and represented them as noted thieves.

Vaux now sent for his father, and, having assured him of his innocence, promised, in case of acquittal, to return to the paths of virtue, and abandon his late companions. The father, under pretence of believing his son's statement, wished to see him convicted, thinking seven years' transportation the only means of curing him of his vile propensities. The trial came on at the Old Bailey, September the 23d, 1800, when, to Vaux's utter astonishment,

nishment, they were both found Guilty. His father now promised to petition in his behalf, but never did so; and in about a month a dreadful distemper, called the gaol fever, broke out in Newgate, and Vaux and Bromley were afflicted with it; but both recovered, and, on the fifteenth of the following May, the latter was removed to the hulks, and the former to a transport, bound for Port Jackson, where he was to stop for seven years.

On his arrival he addressed a letter to Commissary Palmer, who recommended him to Governor King, with whom he had an interview, and by whom he was appointed clerk to Mr. Baker, storekeeper at Hawkesbury, twenty-six miles from Parramatta.

Vaux continued for three years with Mr. Baker, and gave the greatest satisfaction to his master, in consequence of which he was promoted to a place in the secretary's office, at Sydney. For some time he conducted himself in his new situation with great propriety; but his passion for pleasure again ruined him. He entered into a conspiracy with other clerks in the office, by which means they carried on a system of fraud for a long time; but, at length being detected, Vaux was dismissed, and, for the first time, sent to hard labour along with a gaol-gang who worked on the roads.

For two months Vaux continued in this degraded station, and was then drafted to Castle Hill, a plantation twenty-four miles from Sydney. The labour here was very hard, but Vaux sought relief by going to Sydney, against positive orders, on Sundays. Being detected, he was punished with fifty lashes; but such was his passion for pleasure, that he repeated his visits to Sydney, notwithstanding this chastisement.

In about ten months he was appointed clerk to the superintendent, his predecessor in office having become a free man, and he being the only one at Castle Hill qualified. He continued here, very comfortably, until 1806, when he was appointed clerk to the magistrates at Parramatta, for which his knowledge of law proceedings fully qualified him; and he convinced his superiors of his abilities by introducing some kind of *legal technicality* into their public documents, &c.

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At Parramatta he lived in a superior style, and was augmenting his pecuniary resources at a rapid rate, when Governor King, being about to return to England, proposed to give Vaux a passage home, and to remit the remainder of his sentence; in return for which he was to arrange the governor's papers, &c. on the voyage. To this proposal Vaux agreed; and, on the 10th of February, 1807, he quitted the land of exile. The ship being leaky, and provisions nearly exhausted, they put into Rio de Janeiro, where a Portuguese family became much attached to Vaux, whom they solicited to remain with them; but his evil genius prevailed, and he embarked for Europe.

During the remainder of the voyage Governor King acted very arbitrarily towards Vaux, according to his own account; and obliged him to enter the service as a sailor, by which act he was prohibited from quitting the ship; but his ingenuity soon obviated this difficulty, and he effected his escape. On his arrival in London he called to see his mother and sisters; for his father was now dead. Thinking it not prudent to stop in the metropolis, he went down to his grandfather, whom he found much reduced in circumstances, and lonely, his grandmother being dead. In the country his friends were ignorant of his misfortunes; but he felt unhappy from the circumstance of every thing around reminding him of his former felicity and his present degradation. He therefore quitted S——shire on the 1st of January, 1808, and proceeded to London. At Henley-on-Thames, he stopped on the coach while the other passengers went in to breakfast; and in their absence he purloined a parcel from one of the seats, which he found on his arrival in London to have concealed, among several articles of hardware, forty-seven pounds, nine shillings. Thus his early propensities to thieving once more hurried him into the vortex of crime, from which he was never after extricated. The produce of this theft enabled him to appear in a genteel dress, and live comfortably until he procured a situation as clerk to an attorney, which he afterwards abandoned for that of a reader in the printing-office of Mr. Barnard, on Snow Hill, at two guineas a week.

week. He now resolved to lead a strictly virtuous life: but this good resolution was soon forgotten when he again met with some of his dissolute companions, and he at length became a professional thief. But his appearance was still so much above that of his associates that he felt himself degraded in their society, and resolved to plunder by himself, keeping Bromley, however, as an accomplice.

“Having withdrawn myself from my late companions,” he says, “I now became very circumspect in my proceedings; and, as Bromley had neither the appearance nor the manners of a gentleman, I only made use of him occasionally in the course of my practice, keeping him in the back ground to receive and carry any articles which I purloined, and never suffering him to converse with, or approach me, except in private. I generally spent the mornings, that is, from about one o’clock to five, P. M. (which are the fashionable hours for shopping,) in visiting the shops of jewellers, watchmakers, pawnbrokers, &c. Having conceived hopes that this species of robbery would turn to a good account, and depending upon my own address and appearance, I determined to make a circuit of the town, and not to omit a single shop in either of those branches; and this scheme I actually executed so fully, that I believe I did not leave ten untried in all London, for I made a point of commencing every day in a certain street, and went regularly through it on both sides the way. My practice was to enter a shop and request to look at gold seals, chains, brooches, rings, or any other small articles of value; and, while examining them, and looking the shopkeeper in the face, I contrived by sleight of hand to conceal two or three (sometimes more) in the sleeve of my coat, which was purposely made wide. On some occasions I purchased a trifling article, to save appearances; at other times I took a card of the shop, promising to call again; and, as I generally saw the remaining goods returned to the window, or place from whence they were taken, before I left the shop, there was hardly a probability of my being suspected, or of the property being missed. In the course of my career I was never once detected in the fact,

fact, though on two or three occasions, so much suspicion arose, that I was obliged to exert all my effrontery, and to use very high language, in order, as the cant phrase is, to *bounce* the tradesman *out of it*; and my fashionable appearance, and affected anger at his insinuations, had always the effect of convincing him that he was mistaken, and inducing him to apologize for the affront put upon me. I have even sometimes carried away the spoil notwithstanding what had passed; and I have often gone a second and third time to the same shop, with as good success as at the first. To prevent accidents, however, I made it a rule never to enter a second shop with any stolen property about me; for, as soon as I quitted the first, I privately conveyed my booty to Bromley, who was attending my motions in the street, and herein I found him eminently useful. By this course of depredation I acquired on the average about ten pounds a week, though I sometimes neglected shopping for several days together. This was not, indeed, the only pursuit I followed, but was my principal morning's occupation; though, if a favourable opportunity offered of getting a guinea by any other means, I never let it slip. In the evenings I generally attended one of the theatres, where I mixed with the best company in the boxes, and, at the same time that I enjoyed the amusements of the place, I frequently conveyed pocket-books, suuff-boxes, and other portable articles, from the pockets of their proprietors into my own. Here I found the inconvenience of wanting a suitable companion, who might have received the articles I made prize of, in the same manner as Bromley did in the streets; but though I knew many of the light-fingered gentry, whose appearance fitted them for my company, yet, their faces being well known to the police-officers, who attended the theatres, they would not have been suffered to enter the house: and herein I possessed an advantage which many of these gentry envied me; for being just arrived in England, and a new face upon the town, I carried on my depredations under the very noses of the officers, without suspicion. Having, therefore, at first, no associate, I was obliged to quit the theatre, and conceal my first

booty in some private spot, before I could make (with prudence) a second attempt. Upon the whole, I was very successful in this pursuit also, at least as to the *number* of articles I filched; and, had their *value* been reasonably proportionate to what I expected, I need not long have followed so hazardous an employment. I have very frequently obtained nine or ten pocket-books, besides other articles, in an evening; and, these being taken from gentlemen evidently of fortune and fashion, I had reason to expect I should some time meet with a handsome sum in bank-notes: but fortune did not favour me therein, for, during near twelve months, almost nightly attendance at one or other of the public places, I never found more than twenty pounds in a book, and that only on one occasion. I several times got five, ten, or eleven pounds, but commonly one, two, or three pounds; and most generally four books out of five contained nothing but letters, memorandums, and other papers useless to me. At the same time I knew frequent instances of the common street pickpockets getting a booty of fifty, one hundred, and sometimes three or four hundred pounds. However, I never failed to pay the expenses of the night; and, if I gained nothing, I enjoyed at least a fund of amusement, which was to me the highest gratification. It sometimes happened that the articles I got (particularly pocket-books) were advertised by the losers, within a few days, as 'Lost,' and a reward offered for their restoration: where this reward was worth notice, I frequently restored the property by means of a third person whom I could confide in, and whom I previously tutored for the purpose.

"In the mean time, the manner in which I spent my life, abstracted from the disgraceful means by which I supported myself, was (as I have formerly hinted) perfectly regular and inoffensive. Though I lived by depredation, yet I did not, like the abandoned class of common thieves, waste my money and leisure time in profligate debauchery, but applied myself to the perusal of instructive and amusing books, my stock of which I daily increased. I occupied genteel apartments in a creditable house, the landlord of which understood me to hold

hold a situation under government; and every part of my conduct at home tended to confirm his opinion of my respectability. I was scrupulously exact in paying my rent, as well as the different tradesmen in the neighbourhood with whom I had occasion to deal; nor did I ever suffer any person of loose character to visit me, but studiously concealed from those of my acquaintance my place of residence. I was sometimes, indeed, so imprudent as to resort, for company's sake, to some of those public houses frequented by thieves and other dissolute characters, the landlord of which is himself commonly an experienced thief, or returned transport. When I had a mind to relax a little, or grew tired of domestication, I disguised my appearance as much as I could, and repaired to a house of this description, sometimes taking my *Dulcinea* with me, whom I shall shortly introduce to the reader, and whose person and dress I was not a little proud of exhibiting in public. This fondness for flash-houses, as they are termed, is the rock on which most persons who live by depredation unhappily split, and will be found in the sequel to have brought me to my present deplorable condition; for the police-officers, or traps, are in the daily habit of visiting these houses, where they drink with the thieves, &c. in the most familiar manner; and, I believe, often obtain secret information by various means from some parties respecting the names, characters, pursuits, &c. of others. By this imprudent conduct I also became personally known to many of the officers, which was productive of great danger to me in the exercise of my vocation; whereas, had I avoided such houses, I might have remained unknown and unsuspected by them for a series of years."

The *Dulcinea* alluded to above was an unhappy girl of the town, whom he took into keeping, and afterwards married. This poor creature behaved to him in the most exemplary manner, and proved by her conduct that she was worthy of a better fate.

Going one day to a public meeting at the Mermaid Tavern, Hackney, he picked a gentleman's pocket of a silver snuff box, which he handed to the landlady. The box was missed by the owner; and on Vaux claiming it, he

he was taken into custody ; but such is the glorious uncertainty of the law, that he was acquitted on his trial, contrary to his own expectation.

“ The next adventure,” says Vaux, “ I shall have occasion to relate, more fully confirms the justice of the remark, that the connexions formed by persons during temporary confinement in a gaol commonly lead to further acts of wickedness, and frequently entail on the parties a more severe punishment than that which they have just escaped. This was exactly my unhappy case, and I now come to the most fatal era of my eventful life.

“ In the same ward with myself were confined two brothers, very genteel young men, who had been recently cast for death for privately stealing some valuable rings, &c. from the shop of a jeweller in Leadenhall Street. As a conformity of character, or similarity of pursuits, is the strongest source of friendship, so these persons and myself had become very intimately acquainted. In the course of our frequent conversations on the subject with which we were all three alike most conversant, the brothers informed me that they had, like myself, made a successful tour of the jewellers’ shops in London : and on our comparing notes as to the particular persons we had robbed, or attempted to rob, they pointed out about half a dozen shops, which, it appeared, I had omitted to visit, arising either from their making no display of their goods, or from their being situated in private streets, where I had no idea of finding any such trades. Though at that time neither they nor myself entertained much hope of my acquittal, it was agreed that, in the event of my being so fortunate as to recover my freedom, I should pay my respects to the several tradesmen I had so overlooked ; and I promised, in case I was successful, to make them a pecuniary acknowledgment in return for their information. At the moment of my joyful departure from Newgate, they accordingly furnished me with a list of the shops in question, and gave me full instructions and useful hints for my guidance therein. They particularly pointed out a Mr. Bilger, a goldsmith and jeweller of the first eminence in Piccadilly. This gentleman, they assured me, I should find, in the technical phrase, a
good

good flat. They advised me to bespeak a diamond ring, or similar article, and to request a sight of some loose diamonds, for the purpose of selecting such stones as I might wish to have set, informing me that he was generally provided with a large quantity, which he would not fail to show me, and that I might with ease purloin a good number of them. A day or two after my release I made the prescribed experiments, and was fortunate enough to succeed pretty well at nearly every shop; but I reserved Mr. Bilger for my final essay, as he was the principal object of consideration, and from whom I expected to obtain the most valuable booty. On the day se'nnight after my trial at the Old Bailey, I prepared in due form to pay him a visit. About five o'clock in the evening I entered his shop, dressed in the most elegant style, having a valuable gold watch and appendages, a gold eye-glass, &c. I had posted my old friend and aid-de-camp, Bromley, at the door, in order to be in readiness to act as circumstances might require, and particularly to watch the motions of Mr. Bilger and his assistants on my quitting the premises. On my entrance Mrs. Bilger issued from a back parlour behind the shop, and, politely inquiring my business, I told her I wished to see Mr. Bilger; she immediately rang a bell, which brought down her husband from the upper apartments. He saluted me with a low bow, and handed me a seat. I was glad to find no other person in the shop, Mrs. Bilger having again retired. I now assumed the air of a Bond Street loungeur, and informed Mr. Bilger that I had been recommended by a gentleman of my acquaintance to deal with him, having occasion for a very elegant diamond ring, and requested to see his assortment. Mr. Bilger expressed his concern that he happened not to have a single article of that description by him, but, if I could without inconvenience call again, he would undertake in one hour to procure me a selection from his working jeweller, to whom he would immediately dispatch a messenger. I affected to feel somewhat disappointed, but, looking at my watch, after a moment's reflection, I said, 'Well, Mr. Bilger, I have an appointment at the Cannon Coffee-house, which requires
my

my attendance, and if you will without fail have the articles ready, I may probably look in a little after six.' This he promised faithfully to do, declaring how much he felt obliged by my condescension; and I sauntered out of the shop, Mr. Bilger attending me in the most obsequious manner to the outer door. After walking a short distance, Bromley tapped me on the shoulder, and inquired what conduct I meant next to pursue; for he had viewed my proceedings through a glass-door in the shop, and saw that I had not executed my grand design. I related to Bromley the result of my conversation with Mr. Bilger, and added that I meant to retire to the nearest public house, where we could enjoy a pipe and a glass of negus until the expiration of the hour, to which I had limited myself. We accordingly regaled ourselves at a very snug house, nearly opposite Bilger's, until about half past six, when I again repaired to the scene of action, leaving Bromley, as at first, posted at the door. Mr. Bilger received me with increased respect, and, producing a small card-box, expressed his sorrow that his workman had only been enabled to send three rings for my inspection; but that, if they were not to my taste, he should feel honoured and obliged in taking my directions for having one made, and flattered himself he should execute the order to my satisfaction. I proceeded to examine the rings he produced, one of which was marked sixteen guineas, another nine guineas, and the third six guineas. They were all extremely beautiful; but I affected to consider them as too paltry, telling Mr. Bilger that I wanted one to present to a lady, and that I wished to have a ring of greater value than the whole three put together, as a few guineas would not be an object in the price. Mr. Bilger's son, who was also his partner, now joined us, and was desired by his father to sketch a draught in pencil of some fancy rings, agreeable to the directions I should give him. The three rings I had viewed were now removed to the end of the counter next the window, and I informed the young man that I wished to have something of a cluster, a large brilliant in the centre, surrounded with smaller ones; but repeated my desire that no expense might be spared

spared to render the article strictly elegant, and worthy a lady's acceptance. The son having sketched a design of several rings on a card, I examined them with attention, and appeared in doubt which to prefer, but desired to see some loose diamonds, in order to form a better idea of the size, &c. of each ring described in the drawing. Mr. Bilger, however, declared he had not any by him. It is probable he spoke truth: or he might have lost such numbers by showing them, as to deter him from exhibiting them in future. Without having made up my mind on the subject, I now requested to see some of his most fashionable brooches or shirt-pins. Mr. Bilger produced a show-glass, containing a variety of articles in pearl, but he had nothing of the kind in diamonds. I took up two or three of the brooches, and immediately *sunk* a very handsome one, marked three guineas, in my coat sleeve. I next purloined a beautiful clasp for a lady's waist, consisting of stones set in gold, which had the brilliancy and appearance of real diamonds, but marked only four guineas. I should probably have gone still deeper, but at this moment a lady, coming in, desired to look at some ear-rings, and the younger Mr. Bilger immediately quitted his father to attend upon her at the other end of the shop. It struck me that now was my time for a decisive stroke. The card containing the diamond rings, procured from the maker, lying very near the show-glass I was viewing, and many small articles irregularly placed round about them, the candles not throwing much light upon that particular spot, and Mr. Bilger's attention being divided between myself and the lady, to whom he frequently addressed himself, I suddenly took the three rings from the card, and committed them to my sleeve to join the brooch and lady's clasp; but had them so situated that I could in a moment have released and replaced them on the counter, had an inquiry been made for them. I then looked at my watch, and, observing that I was going to the theatre, told Mr. Bilger that I would not trouble him any further, as the articles before me were too tawdry and common to please me, but that I would put the card of draughts in my pocket-book; and, if I did not meet with a ring of

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the kind I wanted before Monday or Tuesday, I would certainly call again and give him final directions. I was then drawing on my gloves, being anxious to quit the shop while I was well; but Mr. Bilger, who seemed delighted with the prospect of my custom, begged so earnestly that I would allow him to show me his brilliant assortment of gold watches that I could not refuse to gratify him, though I certainly incurred a great risk by my compliance. I, therefore, answered, 'Really, Mr. Bilger, I am loth to give you that unnecessary trouble, as I have, you may perceive, a very good watch already, in point of performance, though it cost me a mere trifle—only twenty guineas; but it answers my purpose as well as a more valuable one. However, as I may probably, before long, want an elegant watch for a lady, I don't care if I just run my eye over them.' Mr. Bilger replied that the greater part of his stock were fancy watches, adapted for ladies; and he defied all London united to exhibit a finer collection. He then took from his window a show-glass, containing about thirty most beautiful watches, some ornamented with pearls or diamonds, others elegantly enamelled, or chased in the most delicate style. They were of various prices, from thirty to one hundred guineas; and the old gentleman, rubbing his hands with an air of rapture, exclaimed, 'There they are, sir; a most fashionable assortment of goods; allow me to recommend them: they're all a-going, sir—all a going.' I smiled inwardly at the latter part of this speech, and thought to myself, 'I wish they were going, with all my heart, along with the diamond rings.' I answered they were certainly very handsome, but I would defer a minute inspection of them till my next visit, when I should have more time to spare. These watches were ranged in exact order, in five parallel lines; and between each watch was placed a gold seal or other trinket appertaining to a lady's watch. It was no easy matter, therefore, to take away a single article without its being instantly missed, unless the economy of the whole had been previously deranged. I contrived, however, to displace a few of the trinkets, on pretence of admiring them, and ventured to secrete one very rich gold seal, marked

marked six guineas. I then declared I could stay no longer, as I had appointed to meet a party at the theatre; but that I would certainly call again in a few days, and lay out some money in return for the trouble I had given. Mr. Bilger expressed his thanks in the most respectful terms, and waited upon me to the door, where he took leave of me with a very low *congé, à la mode de France*, of which country he was a native. I now put the best foot foremost, and, having gained a remote street, turned my head, and perceived Bromley at my heels, who seized my hand, congratulating me on my success, and complimenting me on the address I had shown in this exploit; for he had witnessed all that passed, and knew that I had succeeded in my object, by the manner in which I quitted the shop. He informed me that Mr. Bilger had returned to his counter, and, without attending to the arrangement of the articles thereon, had joined his son, who was still waiting upon the lady, and that he, Bromley, had finally left them both engaged with her."

Such was his rapacity that he renewed his visit to Mr. Bilger's shop; but the reception he met satisfied him that he was suspected. He, however, left an order for a splendid ring; and, while the jeweller's son, as Vaux thought, was taking down his directions, he was only writing a description of his person, and a handbill in a few days was widely circulated among the pawnbrokers, peace-officers, &c. A day or two after Vaux called at Turner's, a pawnbroker, in Brydges Street, Covent Garden, to redeem some article he had pledged, when he saw such manœuvres in the shop as induced him to make a precipitate retreat, and go into concealment.

At length necessity, as he says himself, forced him out, and the first night he stole, from a shop in Ludgate Street, property to the amount of four or five pounds, with which he was so much pleased that he returned for his wife, and took her out to walk. Contrary to her earnest remonstrance, they went to a flash house, near Clare Market, where the landlord betrayed him into the hands of justice, and he was hurried off to the watch-house. Next day he underwent an examination at Bow Street, and was remanded. During the interval between

his first and second appearance he had completely metamorphosed his person by cutting his hair and whiskers, and putting on a mean suit of clothes. But all would not do; he was recognised through his disguise, and fully committed. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, February the 15th, 1809, and, the facts being sworn to, he was found Guilty—Death. His sentence was afterwards commuted to transportation for life, preparatory to which he was conveyed on board the Retribution hulk at Woolwich.

“ I had now,” says Vaux, “ a new scene of misery to contemplate; and, of all the shocking scenes I had ever beheld, this was the most distressing. There were confined in this floating dungeon nearly six hundred men, most of them double-ironed, and the reader may conceive the horrible effects arising from the continual rattling of chains, the filth and vermin naturally produced by such a crowd of miserable inhabitants, the oaths and execrations constantly heard among them; and, above all, from the shocking necessity of associating and communicating more or less with so depraved a set of beings. On arriving on board, we were all immediately stripped, and washed in large tubs of water; then, after putting on each a suit of coarse slop clothing, we were ironed, and sent below, our own clothes being taken from us, and detained till we could sell or otherwise dispose of them, as no person is exempted from the obligation to wear the ship-dress. On descending the hatch-way, no conception can be formed of the scene which presented itself. I shall not attempt to describe it; but nothing short of a descent to the infernal regions can be at all worthy of a comparison with it. I soon met with many of my old Botany Bay acquaintances, who were all eager to offer me their friendship and services,—that is, with a view to rob me of what little I had; for in this place there is no other motive or subject for ingenuity. All former friendships or connexions are dissolved, and a man here will rob his best benefactor, or even messmate, of an article worth one halfpenny. Every morning, at seven o’clock, all the convicts capable of work, or, in fact, all who are capable of getting into the boats, are taken ashore

ashore to the Warren, in which the Royal Arsenal and other public buildings are situated, and are there employed at various kinds of labour, some of them very fatiguing ; and, while so employed, each gang of sixteen or twenty men is watched and directed by a fellow called a guard. These guards are most commonly of the lowest class of human beings ; wretches devoid of all feeling ; ignorant in the extreme, brutal by nature, and rendered tyrannical and cruel by the consciousness of the power they possess ; no others, but such as I have described, would hold the situation, their wages being not more than a day-labourer would earn in London. They invariably carry a large and ponderous stick, with which, without the smallest provocation, they will fell an unfortunate convict to the ground, and frequently repeat their blows long after the poor sufferer is insensible. At noon the working party return on board to dinner, and at one again go on shore, where they labour till near sunset. On returning on board in the evening, all hands are mustered by a roll, and the whole being turned down below, the hatches are put over them, and secured for the night. As to the food, the stipulated ration is very scanty, but of even part of that they are defrauded. Their provisions, being supplied by contractors, and not by government, are of the worst kind, such as would not be considered eatable or wholesome elsewhere ; and both the weight and measure are always deficient. The allowance of bread is said to be about twenty ounces per day. Three days in the week they have about four ounces of cheese for dinner, and the other four days a pound of beef. The breakfast is invariably boiled barley, of the coarsest kind imaginable ; and of this the pigs of the hulk come in for a third part, because it is so nauseous that nothing but downright hunger will enable a man to eat it. For supper, they have, on banyan days, burgoo, of as good a quality as the barley, and which is similarly disposed of ; and on meat days, the water in which the beef was boiled is thickened with barley, and forms a mess called ‘smiggings,’ of a more detestable nature than either of the two former ! The reader may conceive that I do not exaggerate when I state that among the
convicts

convicts the common price of these several eatables is,—for a day's allowance of beef, one halfpenny;—ditto, of cheese, one halfpenny;—ditto, of bread, three-halfpence; but the cheese is most commonly so bad, that they throw it away. It is manufactured, I believe, of skimmed milk, for this particular contract. The beef generally consists of old bulls, or cows who have died of age or famine; the least trace of fat is considered a phenomenon, and it is far inferior upon the whole to good horse-flesh. I once saw the prisoners throw the whole day's supply overboard the moment it was hoisted out of the boat, and for this offence they were severely flogged. The friends of these unhappy persons are not allowed to come on board, but must remain alongside during their visit; the prisoners are, it is true, suffered to go into their boat, but a guard is placed within hearing of their conversation; and if a friend or parent has come one hundred miles, they are not allowed above ten minutes' interview: so that, instead of consolation, the visit only excites regret at the parties being so suddenly torn asunder. All letters, too, written by prisoners, must be delivered unsealed to the chief mate for his inspection, before they are sent ashore; and such as he thinks obnoxious are of course suppressed. In like manner, all letters received from the post-office are opened and scrutinized. If I were to attempt a full description of the miseries endured in these ships, I could fill a volume; but I shall sum up all by stating that besides robbery from each other, which is as common as cursing and swearing, I witnessed among the prisoners themselves, during the twelvemonth I remained with them, one deliberate murder, for which the perpetrator was executed at Maidstone, and one suicide; and that unnatural crimes are openly committed."

From the misery of the hulks he was removed on the 15th of June, 1810, for the second time, to Botany Bay. His wife, who had all along manifested the utmost attention, was prevented, by a succession of unfortunate circumstances, from seeing him previous to his departure, nor does it appear he knew what became of her afterwards. On the 16th of the following December the transport arrived at Sydney Cove, where Vaux found the
report

report of his exploits in London had preceded him. He now endeavoured to make interest with the governor, in the hope of being employed as a clerk ; but, this being his second visit, he was listened to with distrust, and sent up the country to a settler, who used him with great barbarity. To escape from this tyranny Vaux feigned himself sick, and thus procured his removal to the hospital, from which he was discharged in a month, and appointed overseer to a town gang. He now resolved to lead a correct life, and establish, if possible, a character for himself, seeing, as he says, the necessity of good conduct, from the consequences that invariably attend on an improper one. If we believe himself, he adhered firmly to his vows of rectitude, but his notorious character operated against him, and he fell a victim to prejudice and the depravity of a youth, who was a veteran in iniquity. This young villain's name was Edwards. He was servant to Mr. Bent, the judge-advocate, from whom he purloined bills and money. Vaux, suspecting his dishonesty, warned him of his danger ; but the artful thief accounted for his being so flush in money to the presents he was in the habit of receiving from his master's visitors.

One evening he came running into Vaux's lodgings, and requested of him to keep some articles and parcels which he put into his hand. Vaux at first refused, but was ultimately prevailed on to keep them for a few minutes. Edwards had scarcely departed when he thought he did wrong, and acquainted his landlord of the transaction. That person desired him to go immediately and deliver the property up to the judge-advocate in a public manner, as the only way left him to escape being implicated with Edwards. With this advice Vaux resolved to comply, but stopped first to smoke a pipe, and, before he had finished it, two officers entered and apprehended him. His conduct was open, and his landlord deposed in his favour ; but Edwards accused him, in revenge for giving up the property, of being an accomplice, and he was finally banished to the Coal River, where he continued doing all kind of work for two years, after

after which he was permitted to return to Sydney, where he was once more placed in the town gang.

Again he renewed his vows of rectitude, but was unable to obtain any station less degrading than the one in which he was placed. The picture before him was disheartening in the extreme—an exile for life—and compelled to labour at the basest and lowest employment of mankind. A British sailor took compassion on him, and offered, in 1814, to conceal him in his vessel, until she should sail. Vaux embraced the generous proposal; but, after lying close and undiscovered for four days, some one on board gave information, and the unfortunate wretch was dragged ashore, punished with fifty lashes, and sentenced to transportation to the Coal River for one year.

“In a few days,” says he, in his *Memoirs*, “I was accordingly embarked with eleven other prisoners, and a second time landed at Newcastle, from whence I had been absent nearly twelve months. On my arrival, it happened that the storekeeper of that settlement was in want of a clerk, and he applying to the commandant for me, I was appointed to that situation, in which I still continue; and having scrupulously adhered to my former vows of rectitude, and used every exertion to render myself serviceable to my employer, and to merit his good opinion, as well as that of the commandant, I have had the satisfaction to succeed in these objects; and I am not without hope that, when I am permitted to quit my present service and return to Sydney, my good conduct will be rewarded with a more desirable situation. I have now been upwards of seven years a prisoner, and, knowing the hopeless sentence under which I labour, shall, I trust, studiously avoid in future every act which may subject me to the censure of my superiors, or entail upon me a repetition of those sufferings I have already too severely experienced. I have thus described (perhaps too minutely for the reader’s patience) the various vicissitudes of my past life. Whether the future will be so far diversified as to afford matter worthy of being committed to paper, either to amuse a vacant hour, or to
serve

serve as a beacon which may warn others to avoid the rocks on which I have unhappily split, is only known to the great Disposer of events."

The "Memoirs written by himself," from which we have extracted the most interesting passages, here terminate. They were written in 1816, and published in London in 1819.

*EDWARD WILLIAM ROBERTS, — BROWN,
and DOROTHY COLE, otherwise Mrs. BROWN,*

CONVICTED IN THE COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF A CONSPIRACY, AND THE
TWO FIRST IMPRISONED AND PILLORED.

SWINDLING, since the case of Alexander Day, the first notorious character of the last century in this species of villany, has made more rapid advances than any other mode of plunder. The gang to which these people belonged were particularly dangerous to tradesmen, from the extraordinary qualities of the individuals of which it was composed.

Edward William Roberts was regularly called to the bar, where his abilities promised him success. He occupied a genteel house in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's Inn, the furniture of which, together with a library, was presented him by Major Davison; and here Miss Dorothy Cole, the daughter of the landlady of the Magpie on Hounslow Heath, passed as his wife, attended by her footman, though he was married and the father of several children.

The first act of cheating which we find committed by Roberts was that of secretly selling the bounty of his friend, and clandestinely leaving his chambers, with a number of debts unpaid. In a very short time, however, this loving couple were elegantly situated and attended in Dover-street, Piccadilly, where Roberts hired a furnished house at five guineas per week, and a chariot for Miss, while one of her brothers acted the part of footman in a rich livery. Their success here was at first great; for a fine woman like Dolly giving orders from a carriage is an attraction which few tradesmen of a fifty per cent. conscience can withstand; it is often, in fact,

“Diamond cut Diamond.” The shopkeeper, for unfair profits, will risk his goods; and the swindler, to get possession of them for nothing, spreads his insidious snares. One of these traders was thus duped out of muslin to the amount of 250*l*.

From Dover-street Roberts and his mistress were *per force* removed to the King’s Bench, where the fascinating wiles of Miss stole upon the peace and purse of a rich old sensualist, who frequented the prison, and went by the appellation of Captain Fisher. He took her from *durance vile* and lodged her in Dyer’s-buildings, Holborn, leaving Roberts alone, who procured his removal to the Fleet prison, and there made an acquaintance with Brown, who reported himself to have been an eminent brandy-merchant, and to be possessed of the title to lands in the United States of America; and upon some sort of paper negociation he procured his liberty, leaving Roberts still a prisoner, but not without first entering into a league with him for future operations.

Brown immediately repaired to Dyer’s-buildings, took Miss from the protection of the old captain, and hired a handsome house in Coram-street, Brunswick-square, wherein she entered as Mrs. Brown, in mourning for the death of his supposed father. A job carriage was procured, with a regular suite of servants, in which they went, as man and wife, to different tradesmen, who eagerly furnished their new house with the utmost elegance. It was some time before Roberts could get outside the walls of his prison, and not until Brown’s creditors had become importunate for the payment of their bills, by one of whom he had been arrested. Roberts, at this critical time, made his appearance in Coram-street, claimed the goods, servants, and horses as his property, and Miss for his wife, which she readily confirmed. The remainder of the impatient tradesmen now became clamorous upon Roberts, who, to extricate the whole by a coup-de-main, drew a warrant of attorney, in which Brown confessed judgment recovered by him for a large pretended debt, and thereupon issued execution on the devoted goods, pretending, however, that it was at the suit of his brother.

Mr.

Mr. Rackstraw, an upholsterer, and Mr. Hancock, an ironmonger, the principal victims of this villany, insisted on seeing the writ under which their property had been seized; and finding the pretended plaintiff to be Roberts, posted off to Marlborough-street, and obtained warrants against him and his lady, and lodged a caveat against the removal of the goods; but when the officers of justice arrived the parties had fled. In their depredations they had descended to the meanest tricks—the petty chandler, the little huckster, the washer and mangling women, grocers, butchers, bakers, and all with whom they could procure credit for the most trifling score, surrounded their house:

Meantime the defeated lawyer with his fair one had secretly fled to private furnished lodgings, at No. 24, Salisbury-street, Strand, where she was brought to bed of a daughter. Nor were the runners after them idle. They soon found their way to Salisbury-street, and seized Roberts, but left the new made mother awhile to her sorrows. Roberts was taken to Marlborough-street, and thence committed to Clerkenwell prison.

Miss Cole, who was a woman of considerable accomplishments, had published a novel, and, in search of subscribers, imposed upon Lady Haggerston and Lady Louisa Manners, the former of whom called upon her during the accouchement, left her purse, and promised to exert herself in procuring some employ for her husband, believing her to be the wife of Roberts.

Notwithstanding the precarious situation in which this infatuated woman stood, she remained in fancied security; but those who still held a warrant against her, having ascertained the day of the birth of the child, did not suffer that on which the month expired to close without carrying the mother, nurse, and babe to that tribunal from which Roberts had been already committed. In prison, however, she did not remain longer than a week, as the kind captain procured her bail, and money to hire more comfortable lodgings, which she found in Amphitheatre-row, Surry side of Westminster Bridge, where she was secluded five weeks; a life ill suited to her active mind.

We next find her in a second furnished floor in

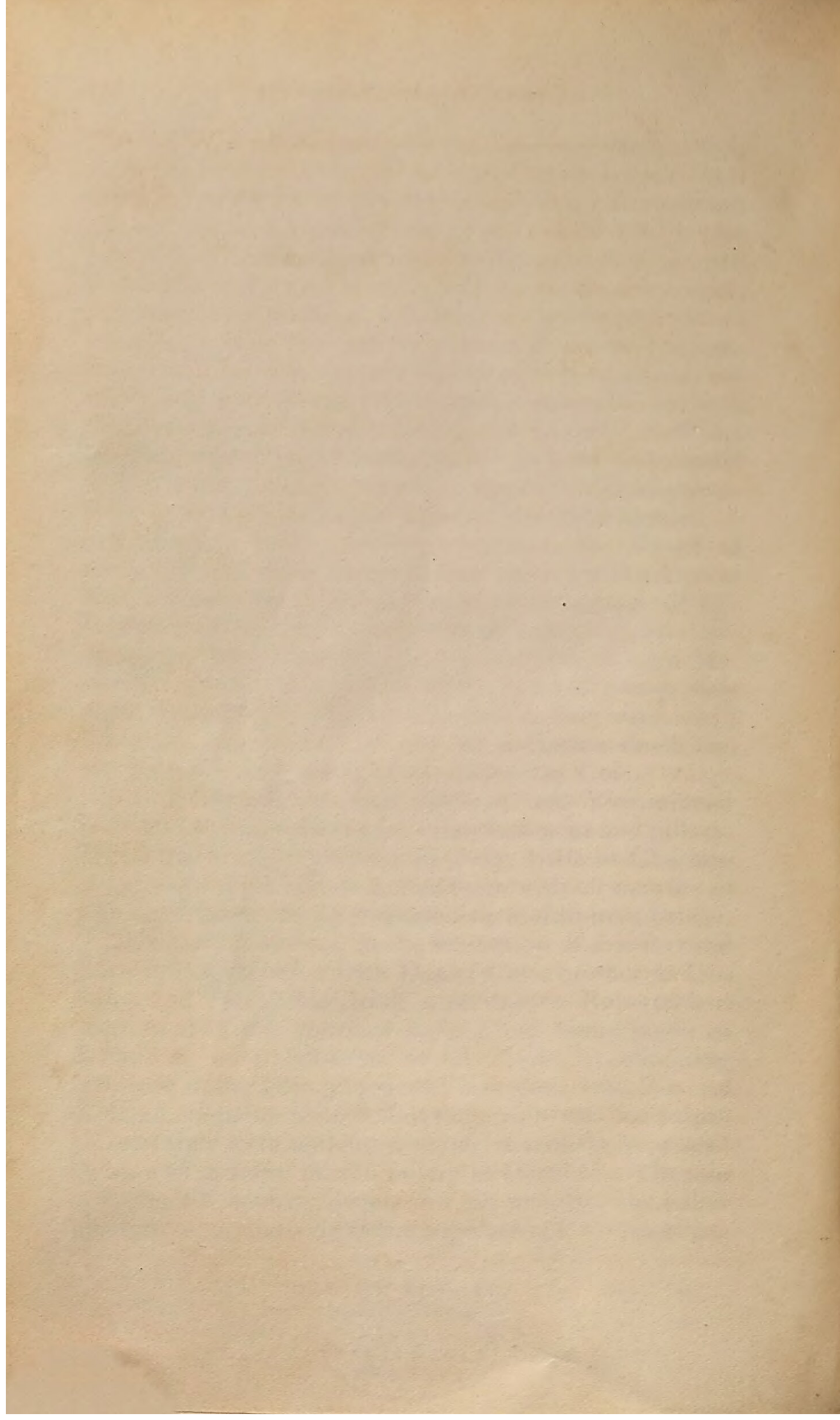
Theobald's-road, Bedford-row ; and there, strange to tell, Roberts once more joined her, having at length been liberated upon bail. In Theobald's-road they got a prospectus printed of another novel, to be called "The Mysterious Mother," and she long employed her time, on foot now, in going from one noble mansion to another, soliciting subscriptions. So little do the major part of the great fatigue themselves in reading the detail of criminal enquiries at public offices, that few had seen the many long accounts of her commitment, and, in order to rid themselves of her importunities, subscribed to "The Mysterious Mother;" upon which Roberts and herself subsisted until brought to trial. The third unlucky conspirator, Brown, was again caged in the Fleet prison.

The gang removed their case into the Court of King's Bench, with the desperate hope that Rackstraw and Hancock would not be at the great expense of following them. Here they were again disappointed : the Attorney-General led the prosecution ; and, though Mr. Marryat did all that man could do in a bad cause, they were found Guilty. Though convicted, they were, until sentence, still upon bail. In the meantime death had put an end to the career of Miss Dorothy Cole.

Roberts and Brown were brought into Westminster Hall, and sentenced to a year's imprisonment and pillory. The latter was put in force in July, 1810, at Charing-cross, when the populace pelted them with all manner of filth until they bore little resemblance of human beings.

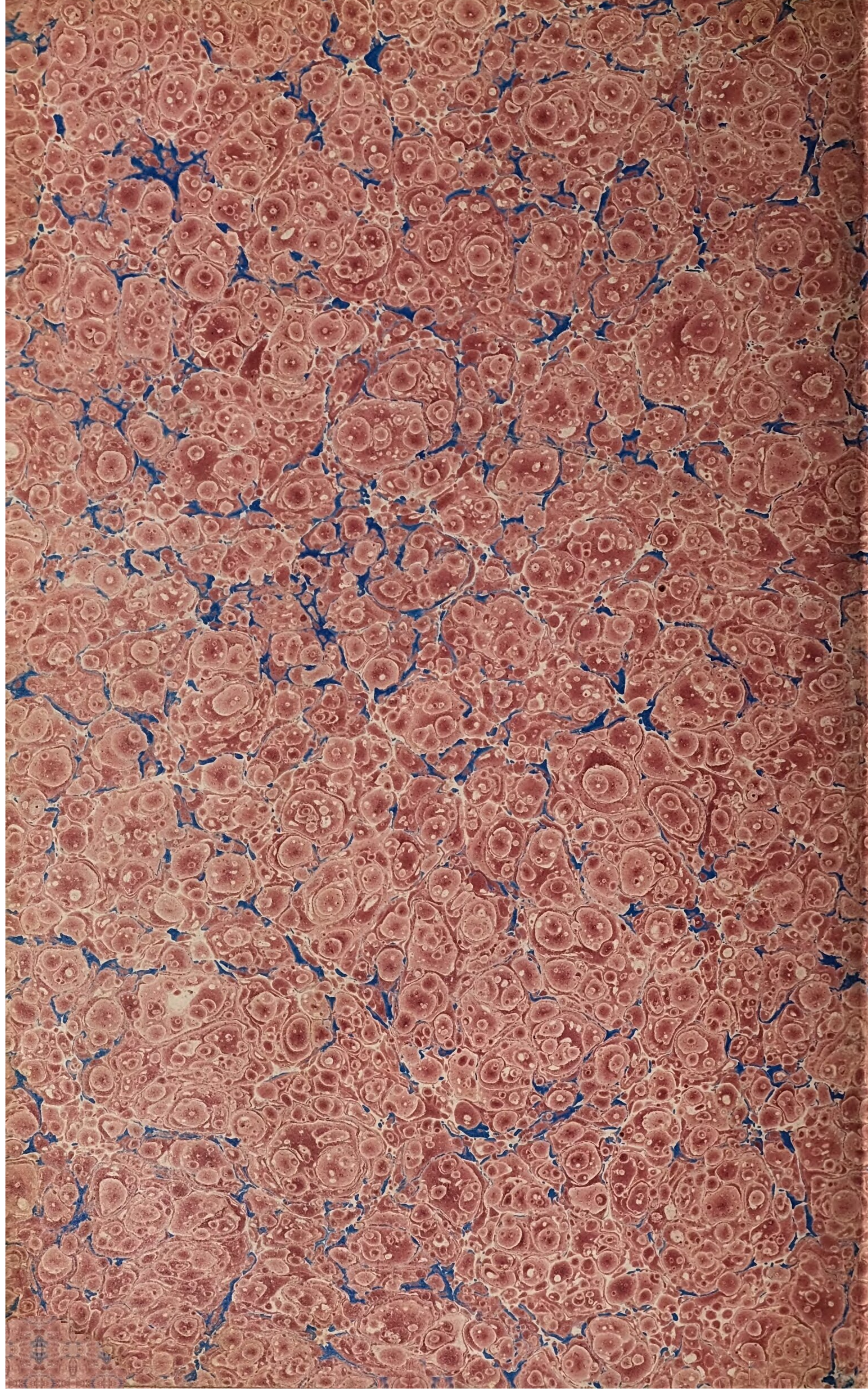
Previously, however, to the execution of this merited punishment, Roberts, with Daniel Cole, brother to Dorothy, and David Maitland, a servant to Roberts, had been tried at the Hertford assizes, and found guilty of defrauding an upholsterer, of Cheshunt, by obtaining furniture under false pretences. On their trial Roberts made an eloquent defence, but their guilt was too palpable, and they were sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, and to stand on the pillory at Hertford. On this occasion the country people did not manifest their displeasure so vindictively as the populace at Charing-cross.

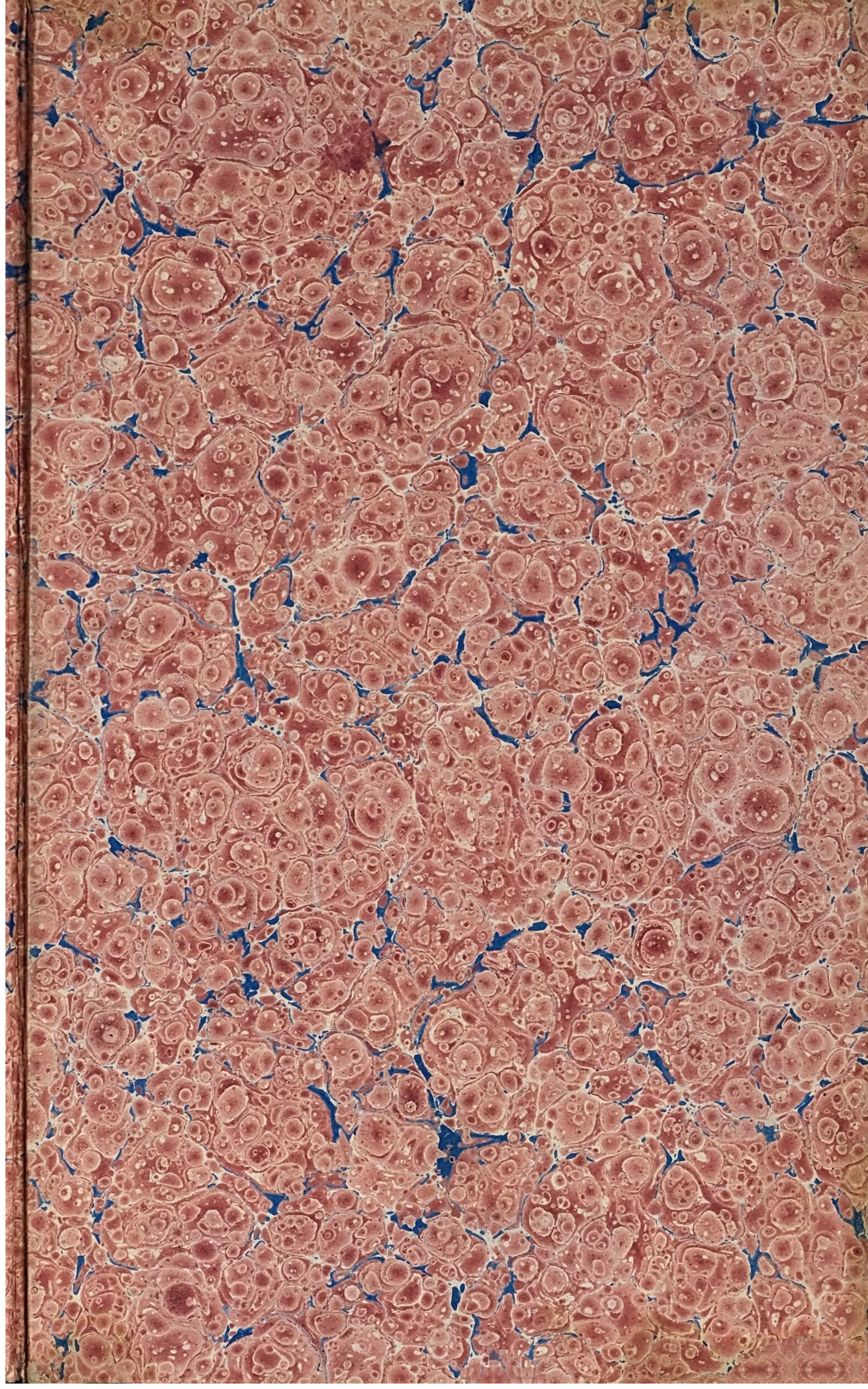




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Knapp, Andrew / Knapp, Andrew / Baldwin, William

The new Newgate calendar being interesting memoirs of notorious characters,
who have been convicted of outrages on the laws of England, during the
eighteenth century, brought down to the present time
Bd.: 4

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